



er of the irrigation cycles, water only when needed, lengthen the time between programs as far as possible. I try to stay up to date with all of the new products and new technology.

Gas and diesel prices are increasing as well. I am trying to be more efficient in our mowing practices and Gator usage (and I ride my Deere bicycle around the 26-acre complex whenever possible).

ST: How do you communicate with management and field users?

Wiggins: Face to face communication is 95% of the time. Phone calls and email account for the other 5%. I am on the field daily communicating with the coaches and athletes. The softball coach and I have worked together for the past 15 years. In my 18 years of service for TISD, I have developed an ongoing relationship

with my boss, the assistant superintendent, the athletic director and coaching staffs which are reflected by a single high school district.

ST: What's the best piece of turf management advice you've ever received?

Wiggins: Craig Potts from Texas A&M said, "Make the program yours!" Use tools, materials that you are familiar with and associate yourself with your vendors and associates in STMA and Texas Turfgrass Association. They have invaluable advice, ideas and are a phone call away.

A defining moment for me was when an opposing team arrived at our field, kicked off their flip flops and proceeded to "feel" the grass. They proclaimed that this was the nicest field they had ever played on." A compliment like this proved our "and then some" work ethic.

ST: How do you keep your "engine" charged to do your best every day?

Wiggins: My love of high school athletics and the athletes keep me charged. Preparing the field for the softball team who has been state finalist for two of the last five years keeps me excited. Getting to work on all sports keeps the fire burning. Designing, creating and painting new logos on the field is an area I love. Working around students and athletes makes my job worthwhile as they appreciate what I do.

ST: How do you balance work and personal life?

Wiggins: My wife and family support me 100%. My daughter wrote the Golden Rake nomination letter unbeknownst to me. My receiving the award at Disneyworld and getting to read the letter were very humbling. Seeing my work habits on paper being expressed by my daughter and family brought tears to my eyes. They have supported of my career, my dreams and my many hours away from them at my second home. My wife and I have set up a date night to get away regularly and spend time together away from school and work issues. ■

The STMA Field of the Year Awards Program has been made possible through the generous support of its sponsors. They include Carolina Green; Covermaster; Hunter Industries; Turface Athletics/Profile Products; Scotts Turf Seed; and World Class Athletic Surfaces.



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)

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

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

John Mascaro's Photo Quiz

Answer:
from page 17



Since grass never dies in a straight line, this brown turf is obviously man-made, but what caused it? The answer might surprise you. The brown turf in this outfield has been appearing every summer since 1983 when the field was re-built and flipped almost 180 degrees to overcome some flooding issues. The sports turf manager first spotted it when he was hired 4 years ago and thought it might have been caused by a sprayer problem.

Upon closer examination with a long metal probe, it was revealed that the brown area was caused by a 3-foot by 30-foot cement slab that was left

buried 18 inches under the field during the re-construction. Since the baseball field hosts a Division I team field, it is not in play during the summer, and therefore the brown area was never a visual or playability issue during the season. The Sports Turf Manager just got tired of seeing it every summer and decided it needed to be excavated and have the cement removed. No reports of finding Jimmy Hoffa yet.

Photo submitted by Brant Williams, Athletic Facilities Manager at Dallas Baptist University, Dallas, TX.

If you would like to submit a photograph for John Mascaro's Photo Quiz please send it to John Mascaro, 1471 Capital Circle NW, Ste # 13, Tallahassee, FL 32303 or email to john@turf-tec.com. If your photograph is selected, you will receive full credit. All photos submitted will become property of *SportsTurf* magazine and the Sports Turf Managers Association.

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

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)

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

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."

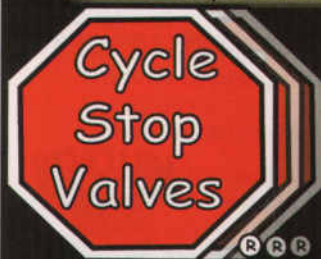
In 2007, STMA submitted two proposed educational sessions to NRPA and both were selected to be presented at the Congress. David Schlotthauer, athletic field manager at Brigham Young University, will present "Managing Athletic Events: Implementing a Safety Audit" Thursday the 16th from 8:30 – 9:45 a.m. 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. ■

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STMA Affiliated Chapters Contact Information

Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona:
www.azstma.com.

Chesapeake Chapter STMA (formerly Mid-Atlantic Athletic Field Managers Organization - MAFMO Chapter STMA):
www.ccstma.org.

Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association:
www.cstma.org.

Florida #1 Chapter: 954/782-2748

Gateway Chapter Sports Turf Managers Association: www.gatewaystma.org.

Georgia Sports Turf Managers Association:
www.gstma.org.

The Greater L.A. Basin Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association:
www.stmalabasin.com.

Illinois Chapter STMA: 847/263-7603.

Intermountain Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association: www.imstma.org.

Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association:
www.iowaturfgrass.org.

Keystone Athletic Field Managers Org. (KAFMO/STMA): www.kafmo.org.

Kentucky Sports Turf Managers Association:
www.kystma.org.

Michigan Sports Turf Managers Association (MISTMA): www.mistma.org.

Minnesota Chapter STMA: www.mstma.org.

MO-KAN Sports Turf Managers Association:
www.mokanstma.com.

New England STMA (NESTMA): www.nestma.org.

Nebraska Sports Turf Managers Association:
402/441-4425.

North Carolina Chapter of STMA:
www.ncsportsturf.org.

North Florida STMA Chapter: 850/580-4026.

Northern California STMA: www.norcalstma.org.

Ozarks STMA: www.ozarksstma.org.

Sports Turf Managers of New York:
www.stmony.org.

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey: www.stmanj.org.

Ohio Sports Turf Managers Association (OSTMA): www.ostma.org.

Pacific Northwest Sports Turf Managers Association: www.pnwstma.org.

Southern California Chapter:
www.socalstma.com.

South Carolina Chapter of STMA:
www.scstma.org.

Texas Sports Turf Managers Association:
866/897-8621.

Tennessee Valley Sports Turf Managers Association (TVSTMA): www.tvstma.com.

Virginia Sports Turf Managers Association:
www.vstma.org.

Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association:
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CUT HERE

Dressing your field

Q: *When, if ever should 419 be topdressed? What type of material should be used? When should we do it? It is a very nice athletic field we are working on but it has some low and high spots that we would like to smooth out to prevent turned ankles. I have a concern over material cost. Note that we just aerated a few weeks ago (July).*

— via e-mail



BY DR. GRADY MILLER
Professor, North Carolina
State University

Questions?
Send them to
Grady Miller at
North Carolina State
University, Box 7620,
Raleigh, NC 27695-7620,
or email
grady_miller@ncsu.edu

Or, send your
question to
David Minner at
Iowa State University,
106 Horticulture Hall,
Ames, IA 50011
or email
dminner@iastate.edu.

Tifway bermudagrass (sometimes called 419 or Tifway 419) is commonly topdressed for three reasons: thatch control, to promote lateral growth, and to smooth out uneven surfaces. It sounds like your primary reason is to smooth out uneven surfaces.

How often a field is topdressed may depend on why you are topdressing and severity of the situation. For routine topdressing for thatch control, once to twice a year is fairly common. Since Tifway is such a robust growing grass in the spring and summer, it can be topdressed fairly heavily (up to 0.25 inches per application) without negative consequences. This is how some turf managers get away with only one topdressing a year. Nevertheless, light frequent topdressing applications are preferred to less frequent, heavier ones.

Some golf course superintendents have started topdressing their low-cut greens very lightly weekly, a practice some call "dusting." This would be an extreme practice and unnecessary for a sports turf field. After topdressing, use a pull behind steel dragmat, cocoa fiber mat, or brushes to incorporate the topdressing material into the turfgrass.

When filling really low areas a manager may want to put a pretty thick depth of sand topdressing (up to half an inch). The bermudagrass will grow through if it is healthy and actively growing. Applying this thick a layer should only be done when the grass is healthy and being maintained at a mowing height of at least 0.75 inches. It is always better to make multiple applications over time rather than burying the turf.

When promoting lateral growth (e.g., trying to get it to grow across weak areas) it is helpful to apply the topdressing over a relatively short period of time. I suggest lightly topdressing several times a month or until the area has filled from lateral growth. This not only promotes shoot and root growth at the stem nodes, it also reduces algae formation on the soil surface. Also, if the weak areas are localized, you may even want to apply the topdressing in specific areas of need rather than over the entire field.

The type of material used for topdressing should be physically and chemically very similar to the existing soil unless

the intent is to modify the soil profile. Some type of sand is probably the most commonly used material for topdressing. Due to the larger particle size of sand, it is generally more resistant to compaction and has a higher rate of permeability than most native soils.

Since not all sands are alike, it is important to get some information from your sand supplier before purchasing. You will want to know particle size percentages. Gravel is of course not wanted on an athletic field surface, and too much coarse sand can result in an unstable, droughty field. And "building" sand or "concrete sand" is usually considered too fine for most topdressing applications. I would also suggest you ask about make-up of the sand. Some topdressing sands may have excess calcium carbonate. This could be a positive or negative depending on your current soil status.

Topdress when the grass is actively growing. For bermudagrass that is usually between April and September in most bermudagrass growing areas. Often topdressing is done in combination with core aerification, vertical mowing, and fertilization. Some turf managers will also lightly topdress in the fall after overseeding with perennial ryegrass.

To cover 1,000 square feet of turf with 0.125 inches it will take about 0.4 cubic yards of material. For a 2-acre field that is about 35 cubic yards. The largest common dump trucks (truck and trailer) have a capacity around 20-22 cubic yards. So if you are spreading the topdressing over the entire surface, this is a lot of material. And unless you live next to a sand pit, the shipping cost is likely to be more than the sand cost. So I understand your concern over the expense of topdressing.

Since a lot of moderate use fields do not build up appreciable organic material because of all the wear and tear of cleats, topdressing to control thatch may not be necessary. Even you said that your main reason for topdressing is to level the surface. You also indicated you have an aerification program (which may reduce thatch in addition to reducing compaction). So, my suggestion for leveling is to consider a heavy core aerification followed by judicious use of a 1 to 1.5 ton roller (dual drum). These can normally be rented from major rental outlets.

Some field managers are afraid of putting rollers on their field, but I think we probably do not use them enough. Like any other practice, there are times when using a roller is smart decision and times when it can be very foolish. Rolling has to be used in combination with core aerification. Too much rolling, especially when your field is wet or the roller is oversized, can lead to severe compaction. So, choose your rolling equipment carefully, monitor the results, and do not stop aerification. ■