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Doc's Dugout

by Dr. Kent Kurtz

I was delighted when Mike Schiller asked me to serve as Chair of the STMA Historical Committee. I have saved the first newsletters, early pictures and information that is not only exciting but valuable. I plan to put together a historical display for the annual Conference & Exhibition in Colorado Spring in January, and I have some terrific photos of President Schiller which should be enjoyable for all to see. This column will be a regular feature of future newsletters and have an occasional article in sportsTURF Magazine.

STMA Scholarship Program Established

In June of 1986, at my urging as Executive Director and Educator, the STMA Board established a scholarship program to encourage young men and women to pursue opportunities in the sports turf field. The first scholarships, at \$250 each, were established to honor two individuals who we felt exemplified what STMA was all about. They were the Harry Gill Award, named to pay tribute to our Founder; and Jeff Wishard Award, so named for a young man who became a quadriplegic in a high school football accident. Both of these honorees were present at this first annual meeting and banquet held in conjunction with the GCSAA in Phoenix, AZ, in February, 1987. Unfortunately, both of

these great individuals are now deceased, but their legacy lives on in our lives.

This was a memorable banquet for a number of reasons. First, the banquet speaker was a good friend of STMA, Joe Torre, manager of this year's World Series Champion New York Yankees. In addition to the scholarship, we also honored our first Honorary Life Members - Tom Mascaro, inventor and Father of the vertical mower and aerifier; John Souther of Scotland, a sports turf contractor/consultant; and Dr. William Kneebone, University of Arizona, plant breeder and turfgrass expert. Last, but by no means least, it brought together for the first time people from all levels of sports turf management to share knowledge and experience on an equal basis and status.

First Scholarship Recipients

Our first STMA scholarship recipients were, David Mellor, a student at Ohio State University who worked summers for Harry Gill and received the Gill Award; and David Arnold, a student from Cal Poly at Pomona who worked at Anaheim Stadium and received the Wishard Award. Currently Mellor is the Assistant groundskeeper at Milwaukee County Stadium for the Milwaukee Brewers

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Doc's Dugout

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and Arnold is Head Groundskeeper at Gene Autry Park, Mesa, AZ -- spring training site for the California Angels.

Scholarship Recipient Fulfills Dreams

In 1989, STMA held its 2nd Annual Meeting in conjunction with GCSAA in Houston, TX and the Harry Gill Award was presented to a student who was attending Texas A & M in the turfgrass program -- Eric Hanson. Eric worked for the Leander (TX) School District as a science teacher and baseball/assistant football coach while attending school. But his goal in life was to someday become a Head Groundskeeper. Finally, in 1991, he became Field Superintendent for the Toronto Blue Jays in Dunedin, FL. Recently he was tapped to be the Head Groundskeeper at Dodger Stadium. We are proud that one of our former scholarship recipients has finally realized his dreams. Congratulations Eric!

Calling All Former Scholarship Recipients

We have lost track of a lot of our other scholarship and awards recipients for the latter 1980's and early 90's. We would like to know if they ever entered into the sports turf field and would appreciate any information that anyone can give us as to where they are now. The only other person who I personally guided and who received two scholarships is Patrick Sherer who is currently the Assistant Golf Course Superintendent at Bermuda Dunes Country Club in the Palm Springs area. Patrick worked at Anaheim Stadium while a student at Cal Poly Pomona, but after searching for an opportunity in the sports turf field, he felt the lack of opportunity would not allow him to fulfill his goals.

Therefore, it is my opinion that we, as a professional association MUST do more to help these young people who want to work in our industry and especially the "cream of the crop," our scholarship recipients. *STM*

Are You Ready for Some Info?

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fields up to 12 times during a given football season, so we've tried a few things...."

Mentally moving into spring, you hear the one-two punch on Attention to Details from two hands-on sports turf managers who don't believe that close is good enough -- Bucky Trotter, from the University of Kentucky, and David Mellor, from the Milwaukee Brewers Baseball Club.

Bucky gets "into the dirt" with tips on infield and mound maintenance, the area of field management where that special combination of "art" and "science" must blend to produce premium results.

David presents the mowing and marking segment of ballfield maintenance with hints on giving your turf that crowd -- and player -- pleasing appearance while maintaining top level playability.

New to this year's program are the Round-Table Discussions -- a perfect chance for you to ask your questions AND give your opinions on a wide variety of topics including: Cultivation: Options & Outcomes; Troubleshooting Irrigation Systems; Successful Field Scheduling for Municipalities; Budgets: The Good, The Bad & The Ugly; Making Rapid Repairs, and more.

And then there's -- well, come and find out for yourself. SEE YOU IN COLORADO SPRINGS!

STM



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