

SPORTS TURF MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

ISSUES AWARDS

Big things were happening at the STMA Annual Awards Banquet at the Red Lion Hotel in Colorado Springs. The Harry C. Gill Award, STMA Groundskeeper of the Year, was presented to Greg Petry, Executive Director of the Waukegan Park District, Waukegan, IL, by last year's recipient, Dr. Gil Landry. The Harry C. Gill Award is the most prestigious honor issued by STMA. Petry has given extraordinary service to STMA over the last eight years, serving on the board, as President and currently as immediate past-President. His commitment to STMA and guidance of the Association's growth and development have been outstanding.



Recipient of the Outstanding Commercial Affiliate Award for 1996 was Partac Peat Corporation, Great Meadows, New Jersey. The Award was presented to Partac Peat in recognition of the company's long-standing and continuing support of STMA. Professionalism within the sports turf industry has been increased through The Beam Clay® Baseball Diamond of the Year Awards which are jointly sponsored by the company, sportsTURF magazine and STMA.

The Presidents Award was given to the Colorado Chapter of STMA in acknowledgment of their outstanding efforts in preparations for and hosting of the 1997 Annual STMA



Conference and Exhibition. Ken Norkosky, Dave Rulli and Troy Smith accepted the award.

The Excellence in Research Award was presented to Dr. Kent Kurtz, Professor, turfgrass science, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, for his ongoing efforts in turfgrass research.

Also during the Sports Turf Managers Association's (STMA) 8th Annual Conference and Exhibition held January 15 to 19, 1997, in Colorado Springs, two extraordinary individuals were named Honorary Life Members - Dick Ericson, retired from the Minneapolis Metrodome, and George Toma (*pictured top right*), Kansas City Royals and NFL Field consultant.

These two men were among the key leaders in the sports turf industry who formed STMA in 1981, believing that sports turf could most effectively be improved through the sharing of knowledge and the exchange of ideas.



Ericson served as STMA's first president, presiding over the young organization in 1981 and 1982. Toma has consistently strived to bring greater visibility to STMA's focus on promoting better and safer sports turf areas. The dedication, sharing and mentoring of these two men are renowned throughout the industry.

Ericson and Toma join the select body of Honorary Life Members: Dr. John R. Hall II, Extension Agronomics Turf, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA; Dr. William Kneebone, Professor Emeritus, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ; Dr. Kent Kurtz, Professor, turfgrass science, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona; Mr. Thomas Mascaro, Turf-Tec International, Oakland, FL; Mr. John Souter, turfgrass consultant, Perthshire, Scotland, and Mr. Jeff Wishard (deceased).

Also issued at the banquet were the Field of the Year Awards. The Collegiate Football Field of the Year Award was presented to Jack Trice Field, Cyclone Stadium, of Iowa State University, Ames, IA. Athletic Turf Manager for the field is Mike Andresen (*at right*).



The High School Football Field of the Year Award was presented to Flinn Memorial Stadium of the Quincy Public Schools, Quincy, IL. Kurt Knuf, turf manager submitted the application for the school district.

In addition, STMA awarded a certificate for "Special Recognition for Community Involvement and Most Improved Field in a Year's Time" to John Reed Football Field of Riverside High School in Oakland, IA. Co-sponsors of this field were Richard Harris, Athletic Director, Dave Thomas, School Superintendent, and Charles Vance. Vance, Creative Landscapes of Iowa, accepted the award on behalf of the field.

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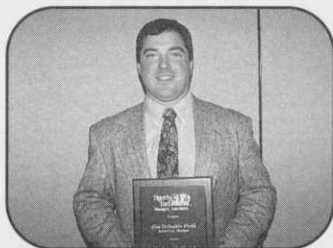
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ISSUES AWARDS

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The Soccer Field of the Year Award was presented to Legion Field of the City of Birmingham, AL. Director James Boynton III accepted this award.

The Softball Field of the Year Award was presented to Jim Drikakis field of John Bailey Park in Battle Creek, MI. Mike



Varner (*right*), Head Groundskeeper of the Michigan Battle Cats Baseball Club and Jim Drikakis Field, accepted the award.

The baseball field awards, deemed the Beam Clay® Baseball Diamond of the Year Awards are given in three categories. These awards are sponsored jointly by STMA, sportsTURF magazine, and Beam Clay®.

The Beam Clay® Professional Baseball Diamond of the Year Award was given to Thomas J. Dodd Memorial Stadium, home of the Norwich Navigators, the Eastern League Double-A Affiliate of the New York Yankees since 1995. Will Schnell is Stadium Superintendent for the facility.

The Beam Clay® College Baseball Diamond of the Year Award was presented to the University of Miami at Coral Gables, Florida, for the Miami Hurricane's Mark Light Stadium. Kevin Hardy is Head Groundskeeper for Mark Light Stadium. Hardy was on hand to accept his award from former Field of the Year Award winner and one of this year's judges, Tom Burns. Burns is now Director, Major League Field Operations for the Texas Rangers, Arlington, Texas.

The Beam Clay® Diamond of the Year Award in the Athletic Park, the outstanding ballfield in Wausau, Wisconsin. Park Manager, Greg Freix, maintains the Athletic Park for the City of Wausau and the Marathon County Park Department.

The STMA also issued two scholar-

ships at its 8th Annual Conference and Exhibition.

The STMA Annual Scholarship

was presented to Jeff Salmond (*above*), a graduate student majoring in Horticulture/Turfgrass Management at Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa.

The Dr. Fred Grau



Scholarship was presented to David Paul Bearden, Jr., a sophomore majoring in Turf Management/Sports Fields at Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, MS.

STMA recognizes that the future of the industry lies in the education, dedication and commitment of outstanding students such as these.

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