

STMA Presents Founders Awards

Reflecting the standards set by STMA Founder Dick Ericson, the Dick Ericson Award is issued annually to an individual who is planning and executing the sports turf management of their facility, who is effectively leading their team to accomplish their goals in field maintenance, and who is positively impacting the sports turf industry.

The 2000 Dick Ericson Award recipient is By Hanson, Manager of Stadium Operations for the three stadiums of Jefferson County, Colorado. The three stadiums host the sports programs for the twelve High School teams.

By has set consistently high standards of job performance for himself and his staff. He has adopted techniques that make the most of existing resources and

constantly improves the management program through creative and innovative ideas. He works to increase professionalism within the sports turf industry. By is a strong supporter of STMA at both the national and Chapter levels. In addition, he has served as host for an annual Colorado Chapter golf outing that is a major fund raiser for the Chapter.

Reflecting the standards set by STMA Founder George Toma, The Toma Award is issued annually to an individual who is on a quest to reach their goals and is demonstrating what Toma has termed the "and then some" factor along the way. He continually stresses that it is possible to reach your highest goals - if you love what you do and give it your all - "and then some."

The 2000 George Toma Golden Rake Award recipient is Connie Rudolph, CSFM, Head Groundskeeper for Midway Stadium, St. Paul, Minnesota. The facility is home of the St. Paul Saints Minor League Baseball team and is used for numerous other

athletic events, for concerts, and for other community events. Connie exemplifies the "and then some" spirit in her constant dedication to providing excellent conditions for all field users. This was acknowledged nationally, as Connie and Midway Stadium were awarded the STMA 2000 Field of the Year honors in the professional baseball category.

In addition, Connie has demonstrated her commitment to the highest professional standards, achieving Certified Sports Field Manager status on January 1, 2001.

Reflecting the standards set by STMA Founder Dr. William H. Daniel, the Daniel Award is issued annually to an individual who has made significant contributions to the sports turf industry through research, teaching and/or extension outreach.

The 2000 Dr. William H. Daniel Award recipient is Dr. Andrew McNitt of Penn State University. Andy has focused his studies and research on athletic fields, soils, drainage and surfaces. He is extremely approachable and able to explain complex issues in a highly understandable manner whether working with a novice or an experienced professional. His contributions have, and will continue to, make a significant impact on construction and maintenance issues within the sports turf industry.

Reflecting the standards set by STMA Founder Harry Gill, the Harry C. Gill Memorial Award is issued annually to honor an individual for their hard work in the sports turf industry and to acknowledge their dedication to STMA.

The 2000 Harry Gill Award recipient is Mary Owen, Extension Educator & Specialist in the University of Massachusetts Turf Program. Mary is dedicated to the



STMA Award Recipients (r to l): Mary Owen, Ross Kurcab, Connie Rudolph, Andy McNitt and By Hanson.

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development and maintenance of quality sports turf areas and has continually worked within the state, the region and the nation to introduce and enhance construction and maintenance programs for better and safer athletic field conditions. She has worked to promote the Sports Turf Managers Association personally and professionally. To name just a few of her many areas of involvement, Mary has served on numerous regional turfgrass boards, as a Director on the National STMA Board, as Chair of the national STMA Conference Education Committee, and on the STMA Certification Committee.

The 2000 President's Award was issued to Dr. Gil Landry, with the inscription, "In grateful recognition for your dedication and service to the Sports Turf Managers Association and the sharing of knowledge that exemplifies the STMA Mission Statement." As Professor of Turfgrass Management, with the University of Georgia, he provides leadership in the development of statewide educational programs in turfgrass management. He serves as a frequent speaker on turfgrass programs regionally, nationally and internationally. He shares his expertise in print through magazine articles for various turf-related publications and serves as Technical Editor for the national STMA Newsletter.

Gil has held various positions on the national STMA Board, helping guide the Association through many challenges, and

served as STMA President in 1992 and 1993. He received the Harry C. Gill Memorial Award in 1995. He continues to support increased professionalism throughout the industry.

The 2000 Commercial Affiliate of the Year Award was issued to Textron Golf, Turf & Specialty Products in appreciation of the company's initiative on behalf of STMA and SAFE.

Honorary Life Membership was awarded to Dr. Henry Indyk of GSI Consultants/Turfcon, Somerset, New Jersey. Henry has served the turfgrass industry as an educator and mentor, first in his career at Rutgers University, and later in his role as consultant, always guiding growth toward a higher level of professionalism. His service as chair of the STMA Conference Educational program was instrumental in developing an industry-wide informational forum.

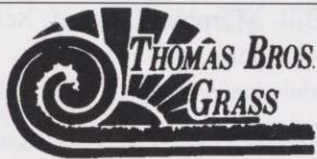


Dr. Henry Indyk & Rich Moffitt

Henry has held various positions on the national STMA Board, helping guide the Association through many challenges. He received the Harry C. Gill Memorial Award in 1994 and he served as the first Chair of the STMA Certification Committee, guiding the Certified Sports Field Manager program to introduction. Henry continues to serve on the committee to help guide its progress.

Ross Kurcab, CSFM, Turf Manager for the Denver Broncos, was named sportsTURF magazine 2001 Manager of the Year. The magazine cited the basis for the decision as the initiative and determination Ross showed in being the first person to complete the difficult requirements of certification, along with his work both locally and nationally in advancing his profession. Those words just begin to capture the knowledge, commitment, dedication and enthusiasm Ross exemplifies in his own position, and shares with all those around him and with the industry as a whole.

This industry owes a huge debt of gratitude to this excellent group of people. Congratulations to all!



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