

DOC'S DUGOUT - An Inning From Our Past

By Dr. Kent Kurtz - STMA Historian

Dr. Henry Indyk - "True Friend, Colleague & STMA Legend"

Early Days with Henry

I am one of those fortunate people who have had the privilege of knowing and working with Henry for the past 30 years. Hank, as he is known by his many friends, is persistent in pursuing a goal, hard working, friendly, extremely intelligent, especially when it comes to turfgrass problems and solutions, very generous with his energy and time and a man of very high integrity.

Henry served our country in World War II in both Europe and the Pacific with a field artillery unit. He spent several years getting his education, first at Rutgers University where he received his BS in Plant Science & Soils, then on to Penn



Henry is a frequent and sought after speaker at many STMA events.

State University where he earned his MS & PhD in Agronomy & Soils. His first position was at the University of Delaware (1954-1959) as a Research Agronomist, then on to Rutgers where he excelled as Extension Specialist in turfgrass

management (1959-1990). Until 1990 he served the State of New Jersey well in the area of turfgrass management - setting up turfgrass demonstration studies, teaching short courses and providing advice to sports turf facilities and golf courses. Also during this time he was a frequent speaker at turf conferences, seminars and industry groups.

Henry - His Days with Turfgrass Extension and other Ventures

Henry spent 31 years as the Extension Specialist in turfgrass management at Rutgers University. During his tenure he was extremely active putting out many demonstration plots related to various types of weed control and turfgrass fertilizers. All of his turfgrass work resulted in many associations and organizations extending him invitations to speak at their conferences and meetings. I remember when both Henry and I were on the program in Orlando, Florida in the mid 1970's for Erick Madisen who sponsored the National Institute for Grounds Management. Between the two of us we presented 8 different 30-45 minute talks on various aspects of turf and sports turf. Usually these meetings ran for 3 days and we were expected to pay for our airline tickets, most of our meals and at least one nights lodging. We became known as the free speakers. This was the group that supported the early STMA leaders and allowed the infant STMA to hold its first meetings. This was also the



Henry Indyk receives the 1994 Harry C. Gill Award from 1993 recipient, Mike Schiller.

group that STMA left when it became an independent organization in 1984. Those distinguished early-STMA leaders were Dr. Indyk, Dr. Daniel, Dr. Kurtz, Mike Schiller, Dale Sandin, Don Marshall, Harry Gill, David Frey, Steve Wightman, Mark Hodnick and many others.

Henry was a Director with the National Sports Turf Council during the 1980's that was organized by the late Dr. Fred Grau. Many groups were represented including STMA (Dr. Kurtz), the National Football League Players Association (John Macik), Professional Grounds Management Society (Alan Shulder), University of Maryland (Tom Chambers), USDA (Jack Murray), Penn State University (Dr. Jack

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Harper), The Lawn Institute (Eliot Roberts), The Toro Company (Dr. James Watson), etc.

Henry was very active with a number of professional groups. He assisted in organizing the New Jersey Turfgrass Association in 1970, the New Jersey Turfgrass EXPO in 1974 (served as chairman for 17 years), Executive Director Golf Superintendent Association of New Jersey (13 years), Executive Director American Sod Producers Association (5 years), Secretary, Sod Association of New Jersey (37 years) and the STMA Board of Directors, Secretary, Vice President, Commercial, Conference Chair, Certification Committee Chair and Awards Committee Chair.

As many of you know Rutgers University leads the nation as the center for the breeding of cool season grasses. Dr. Reed Funk was a graduate student at Rutgers in Henry's earlier days and it was Henry who convinced him to forego corn research and devote his time to turfgrass breeding. This stroke of genius has resulted in many of the latest and most advanced cultivars of Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass, tall fescue and bentgrass for the sports turf industry.

The Recent Years

Many of you have seen Henry at the STMA Annual Conference speaking at sessions or helping the STMA staff with conference details behind the scenes. Henry's wife, Mary, has also been at the annual conference helping with registration and other volunteer duties. The Indyk's celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary September 6, 2003. Congratulations to a wonderful couple who have been an integral part of the STMA family. STMA is very proud of Dr. Henry Indyk and have awarded him the prestigious Harry Gill Memorial Award for his unselfish contributions to sports turf. In 1999 SportsTurf Magazine recognized Henry as the sports turf "Man of the Year". In 2000, STMA awarded him with an honorary lifetime membership. It has been due to Henry's personal integrity and his willingness to serve STMA for the benefit of others that have made this man a legend in his time.

He claims he is slowing down now that he is 82 years young, but no one would know that because he continues to stay involved with our industry. Thanks Henry for all you have done for STMA, the Turfgrass Industry and society.

Editors Notes:

Dr. Henry Indyk started the Dr. Fred Grau Scholarship with funds left from the National Sports Turf Council when it was disbanded after the death of Fred Grau. This scholarship fund is running out of money since it is not endowed. Both Henry and I would like to see this scholarship continued and would like to encourage all STMA professional members and commercial members to contribute to this worthwhile fund to help young, future STMA Leaders with their school expenses.

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New Member Benefit

Your Board has approved an agreement with the University of Georgia Center for Continuing Education (Georgia Center), the Professional Lawn Care Association of America (PLCAA) and STMA to make the Principles of Turfgrass Management course available to STMA members at a reduced rate. This distance-based course is authorized in at least one state to satisfy the requirements for issuance of a pesticide applicators license. Graduates are awarded a certificate and 12 University of Georgia CEUs. The course will also qualify for 1 of an education point towards certification in the CSFM program or 1.5 CEUs (the maximum amount achievable in any one year) towards re-certification of a CSFM. Because STMA is a Supporting Organization of this course, along with PLCAA and GCSAA, STMA members will be able to sign up for the course at a special member rate of \$249 instead of the nonmember rate of \$309. For more information on the course and this new member benefit check it out on your STMA website: www.sportsturfmanager.com.