

Happenings In Phoenix

STMA's annual meeting, conference and sports turf tour in Phoenix brought together a myriad of specialists who shared a great deal of knowledge and experience with the conferees. Talks on a variety of subjects were presented from baseball, softball, soccer and football to polo, equestrian, bowling greens, drainage and weed control. Everyone came away from the meetings with new ideas, techniques, expertise and many new friends.

The Sports Turf bus tour to Arizona State University (Sun Devil Stadium, Packard Stadium), the Mesa Parks Department (winter home of the Chicago Cubs), and the Compadre Stadium (winter home of the Milwaukee Brewers) was terrific. One of the highlights of the tour was seeing the installation of a tractor pull at ASU's Sun Devil Stadium.

Hat's off to our commercial affiliate sod growers from the Phoenix area who hosted the tour and provided the group with a delicious steak barbeque lunch. Thank you again to Mark Doble (Western Sod), Karen Ollerteron (A-G Sod Farms), and our newest member, Kent Staab (American Turfgrass Farms, Inc.).

Scholarships Awarded

STMA is dedicated to the promotion of young aspiring sports turf managers. A scholarship program has been established to provide financial assistance to men and women who are pursuing full-time study in turf management at the university level.

The Harry Gill Award was established to honor the prime founder of STMA and a man who has helped many young men and women prepare for life by working for this "super individual" at Milwaukee County Stadium. The first recipient was David Mellor, a student at Ohio State University, who has spent summers working for Harry and learning the sports turf business.



James Long, Holy Cross College, presenting plaque to Harry Gill symbolizing the Harry Gill Scholarship Award.

The Jeff Wishard Award was established to honor this courageous and sincere young man from Davis, Illinois. According to Jeff's friend, Kent Kurtz, Jeff is a man who does the things that really count and through his courage, make the daily problems others have look quite insignificant. The first recipient of the Jeff Wishard Award was David Arnold, a senior at Cal Poly University, Pomona, CA., who is pursuing a career as a sports turf manager. Congratulations David!

STMA's First Grant For Research On Sports Turf

The first ever research grant was presented to Vincent Patterozzi, a graduate student at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale for his project on wear tolerance using seed mixtures. Vince is studying the effects of sowing seed of tall fescue and zoysia spp together for survival and wear tolerance evaluations in the transition zone. Thanks Vince, we need these type of studies.



Harry Gill, at podium, assisting James Long scholarship chair, presenting the Harry Gill scholarship to David Mellor, Ohio State University student, shown just behind Gill.



Award recipients from left are David Arnold, Cal Poly, Pomona; Vincent Patterozzi, SIU, Carbondale; David Mellor, Ohio State University; and front, Jeff Wishard and Harry Gill.