

**Honorary Memberships**--To be considered for an honorary membership in STMA requires nominations and unanimous board approval. The individual must be exceptional and have made extraordinary contributions to STMA, sports turf society and/or highly distinguished themselves by giving of themselves, made significant sacrifices, and unselfishly provided mankind with their special talents and time.

We had the rare privilege in Phoenix to have all three previously honorary members present to participate in the award presentations, namely, Dr. Fred Grau (chair, National Sports Turf Council, and well-known turf expert), Tom Mascaro (inventor, innovator, consultant, legend), and John Souter (consultant, contractor, sports turf specialist extraordinaire from Scotland).

### **This year's selections were:**

Dr. William R. Kneebone, professor emeritus, turfgrass scientist, researcher and educator who recently retired from the University of Arizona in Tucson. Bob has contributed so much to turfgrass science in the southwestern United States, but due to his quiet nature, humble disposition and easy going manner, Bob never received the credit he deserved. But he has helped many turf managers and developed students into successful leaders in the turfgrass industry. STMA is proud to have Dr. Bob Kneebone as an honorary member, friend and colleague.

Jeff Wishard, a city councilman and park board chair in Davis, Illinois, was rendered a quadriplegic in a high school football accident 12 years ago. Jeff's zest for life, enthusiasm and optimism keep him busy when others would have given up years ago. Jeff works with young Cub Scouts and through his courage and positive disposition, Jeff received the honorary membership in STMA. Jeff will serve STMA as a goodwill ambassador to promote safe sports turf for schools and playgrounds.



*Three previous honorary members of STMA, looking on as Jeff Wishard and Dr. Bob Kneebone accept their honorary memberships.*



*New STMA honorary members, Dr. Bob Kneebone, left and Jeff Wishard.*

Torre, continued,

### **Baseball Field Maintenance.**

Maintenance of baseball fields is extremely important and this begins with Little League Baseball. The field standards should be like a player, consistent. Teaching baseball to youngsters at a very early age is so much easier if the field they play on is maintained properly. With good field maintenance kids learn to trust the hop of the ball and this develops good fundamentals and work habits.

It only takes one bad experience from a ball that bounces up and hits a youngster in the face or mouth from a poorly maintained field to permanently scar a young player. That youngster will remember that incident and be afraid of ground balls, sometimes forever!

Most players and managers take great pride in their work. The same ethics and work habits should be expected of a grounds crew because in baseball, teamwork is the necessary ingredient.

Groundskeeper's jobs are not easy. Most people think that ball players and managers put in nine innings a day, but it is normally an eight-hour day. On the other hand, the grounds crew is there when the ball players arrive, and they are still there when the ball players leave to go home.

Recognition for those who maintain and care for baseball fields is long overdue. However, recently recognition for those individuals who have done an exceptional job, who have been concerned for the safety of the players, and who are dedicated to their profession has begun to emerge. Several individuals here tonight such as Roger Bossard (Chicago White Sox), David Frey (Cleveland Indians), Harry Gill (Milwaukee Brewers), Ed Miller (New York Yankees--Ft. Lauderdale), Dale Sandin (Baltimore Orioles--Miami), John Liburdi (Albany--Yankees) and Sam Newpher (Atlanta Braves) are dedicated men and interested in making their profession better for others who may follow them.

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