

STMA Conference Focuses on Leadership

More Than 150 Converge on Indy!

Leadership and challenge were the focus at the 4th Annual Sports Turf Manager's Association (STMA) Conference and Exhibition, December 13-15, Indianapolis Convention Center and Hoosier Dome, Indianapolis. More than 150 STMA members, speakers and exhibitors attended this year's event.

Key Industry Concerns Addressed

Concerns about the state of athletic fields has risen due to the constant schedule sports turf facilities must endure, which includes everything from rock concerts to tractor pulls.

"STMA members and others engaged in sports turf activity will be severely challenged during the remainder of this century and beyond," said featured speaker Dr. Jim Watson, vice president and agronomist, The Toro Company. "We must all work together to assure the growth of uniform, dense, weed-free playing fields that tolerate the prevailing conditions and will provide an environmentally- and player-safe field."

The 1994 World Cup soccer tournament, which will be played in the United States on nine fields was also a major topic of discussion.

"The World Cup is the world's premier sporting event," says Dr. Gil Landry Jr., STMA president. "It represents an opportunity for sport turf managers to display their skills to the world.."

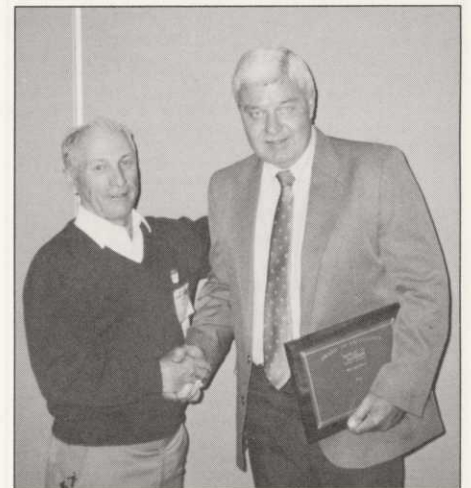


STMA's 4th Annual Conference attracted more than 150 sport turf professionals to the Indianapolis Convention Center and Hoosier Dome this past December. At right, STMA Co-founder George Toma (l) congratulates Chuck Raetzman, assistant director of operations, Arizona Stadium, Tucson, Ariz. Toma won the STMA's Groundskeeper of the Year Award. Arizona Stadium was named the 1992 Football Field of the Year. Pictured above is the Hoosier Dome, home of the NFL's Indianapolis Colts.

Conference and Exhibit Satisfy All Levels of Management

The conference offered five concurrent workshops, dealing with both education and administrative issues. Panel discussions and sports turf managers from across the country offered hints on how to best handle sport turf demands. Educational sessions covered everything from basic turf grass management to athletic field reconstruction, innovations in the industry to seed priming and pre-germination.

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**Join STMA in early November for the 5th Annual
Conference at Baltimore's Camden Yards!**

Conference Focuses on Leadership

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The exhibit hall highlighted vendors from throughout the sports turf industry, featuring new and improved grasses, procedures for specifying soil texture and techniques for construction and establishment of athletic fields. More than 38 vendors were represented.

At the STMA awards banquet, the Groundskeeper of the Year: Harry C. Gill Memorial Award was presented to George Toma, NFL consultant and STMA co-founder. Other awards included:

- **Football Field of the Year**
Arizona Stadium, University of Arizona
Tucson, Ariz.
- **Soccer Field of the Year**
Northwest Park
City of LaPorte, Texas
- **Excellence in Research Award**
Dr. Henry T. Wilkinson
University of Illinois
Champaign, Ill.

- **Outstanding Commercial Affiliate Award**
John Deere & Company
Raleigh, N.C.
- **President's Award**
Adams Publishing Company
Van Nuys, Calif.
- **Scholarship Award**
John Pridgen
Lake Community College
Lake City, Fla.
- **Scholarship Award**
Patrick A. Sherer
California State Polytechnic University
Pomona, Calif.

"STMA is poised to gain more recognition for its efforts in the turf grass management industry," said Landry. "This year's conference – and the information the attendees received there – was definitely an investment in the future of our industry." □

STMA 1993 Committees

Membership Recruitment & Services

Chair: Rick Johnson, IL Lawn

Vice Chair: TBD

Mission: To develop methods for increasing membership, membership benefits and to assess membership needs.

Chapter Relations

Chair: Ray Flood, University of Maryland

Vice Chair: TBD

Mission: To establish and evaluate chapter/national relations.

Education

Chair: Mike Trigg, Waukegan Park

District

Vice Chair: TBD

Mission: To evaluate education needs, including establishment of regional institutes, dates and locations.

Annual Conference and Exhibition

Co-chairs: Dr. Henry Indyk, Turfcon;

Greg Petry, Waukegan Park District

Mission: To develop the annual conference including: date, location, program and trade show.

Awards/Scholarships

Co-chairs: Mark Hodnick, Pasadena Parks

Division; Mike Schiller, Schaumburg Park District

Mission: To review/establish selection criteria, important dates and financial support.

Public Relations/Communications

Chair: Bob Tracinski, John Deere & Company

Vice Chair: Steve Trusty, Trusty & Associates

Mission: To promote STMA, its members and the profession.

Technical/Standards

Chair: Steve Wightman, Jack Murphy Stadium

Vice Chair: TBD

Mission: To work with an association such as the American Society for Testing and Measures (ASTM) on sports facility standards. To develop a membership network to answer technical questions.

Financial

Chair: Ken Mrock, Chicago Bears

Vice Chair: TBD

Mission: To review the association's financial condition, budget and to explore avenues to generate revenue for the organization.

If you are interested in volunteering, contact STMA Headquarters, 312/644-6610. □

STMA Thanks Conference and Exhibit Sponsors

The following companies participated in the 1992 STMA Conference and Exhibition. STMA thanks all participating sponsors for their role in making the conference a success.

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- Turfgrass Services Company (P.A.T.)

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