

January/February 1997 • OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SPORTS TURF MANAGERS ASSOCIATION • Volume XV, Number 1

8th Annual Conference - Best Yet!!

utstanding! Great Conference! Anyone who didn't attend missed a GREAT TIME! These are just some of the comments from attendees at the 8th Annual STMA Conference & Exhibition. Those of you who were unable to attend – we're VERY sorry we missed you! The educational sessions were GREAT. We broke a record for booths at the Trade Show - 68 - can you believe it! Also featured this year were not one but TWO Seminar on Wheels Tours – one to Denver and one in Colorado Springs. We've included some pictures of what you might have missed.

Featured speaker at the Awards banquet was George Toma. George was awarded a lifetime membership to the STMA., as was Dick Ericson. Field of the Year awards and the scholarships were also given out. See page 13 for more details.

Also included in this issue is a complete report on the Board Meeting & Annual Meeting which were both held during the Conference. Anyone interested in the history of STMA will NOT want to miss Kent Kurtz's column "Doc's Dugout." AND – we set another record with new member listings going OVER a page!!

So, sit back and enjoy the newsletter – THEN – start making your plans to join us in Disney World next year.



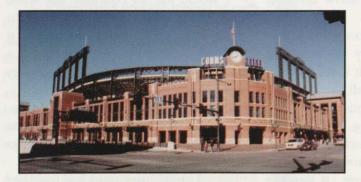
SPORTS

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The first stop on the "kick-off" Seminar on Wheels in Colorado Springs took us to the U.S. Olympic Training Center where our group "christened" the brand new visitors center during the tour and made the evening news!





Coors Field was the final stop on the "wrap-up" Seminar on Wheels. Participants had the opportunity to tour the visitor clubhouse, the playing field, the ground crew area, and win some "door" prizes.

Last stop on the "kick-off" Seminar on Wheels was the Air Force Academy where the playing field was under reconstruction from a native soil to a new sand-based field.



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SPORTS TURF MANAGER

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President's Message

by Mike Schiller President

T's hard to believe that almost a month has flown by since I returned from our conference in Colorado Springs. I cannot say enough good things about the conference. And I need to take a minute here to thank some very special people.

Steve, Suz and Stephanie -THANKS for doing an outstanding job of running the program. To the Conference Committee -- Stephen Guise, Mary Owen, Eugene Mayer-HATS OFF to all of YOU for your dedication and hard work. THANK YOU to all of you who were speakers or moderators at the conference. THANK YOU also to all of the exhibitors at the trade show. We couldn't have done it without you.

I would like to publicly say THANK YOU to the Colorado Chapter. Their efforts and contributions to the organization helped make this our most successful conference ever. To Mike Wehrmann and Vern Waldrip of the Air Force Academy; Mark Leasure of the Colorado Springs Sky Sox; Jamie Batchelder of the Olympic Training Center; Ross Kurcab, Troy Smith and Wes Conway of the Denver Broncos; Tom Lujan of Mile High Stadium; and Mark Razum of the Colorado Rockies -WOW! You guys are the epitome of what STMA stands for. THANK YOU for taking the time to show off your wonderful facilities.

I would like to congratulate my good friend Greg Petry on receiving the Harry Gill Award. It is our way of saying thanks Greg for all the time and effort that you have put in to keep STMA alive and growing. I know that this award means as much to you as it did to me, so enjoy showing off this unique piece of sculpture. It signifies what Harry stood for, believed and lived daily.

I would like to thank Henry



Mike Schiller

Indyk for taking the bull by the horns with the Certification Committee. I would also like to thank Mike Andresen for taking over the chair of the Chapter Relations Committee, and Steve Wightman for taking charge of the Category I group.

My goals for the coming year remain true to my goals of the past year:

• I want to continue to see STMA grow and strengthen, in numbers and financially.

• I want to continue to gain greater respect among the commercial people in the industry, and increase their numbers among our membership.

• I want to see our membership rosters swell and grow. We did well this past year, but we can do better. If everyone who is a member brought in two new members this year imagine how we would grow.

• I would like to continue the work with the chapters and also see us do more with the National Federation of High Schools and hopefully develop a dialogue with the Stadium Managers Association.

• My last goal as President is a lofty one. I would LOVE to see 500 people or more attend our conference in Orlando next January. What A Way To Go!

I think that working together we can continue to gain credibility in the industry and

that, my friends, is what it's all about.

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STMA Board Meeting Report

Your board met on the afternoon of January 14, 1997, prior to the 8th Annual Conference. Colorado Chapter President, Dave Rulli, and Colorado Chapter Vice President, Abby McNeal, sat in on this session.

This is your board, meeting on your behalf, to discuss the issues that shape not only where this organization is headed, but also the position of the sports turf manager in the green industry. Your input is ALWAYS welcome. If you have issues that you would like to have brought before the board, or if you have input or questions on issues that have been addressed in past board meetings or by STMA committees, PLEASE pass along this information to headquarters or to any board member. It WILL be addressed.

As always, your board reviews the minutes of the previous meeting and the financial report. Treasurer Rich Moffitt reported that as of December 31, 1996, STMA is financially stable. Year end budget figures show a surplus of \$6,552. This is based upon income of \$201,285 and expenses of \$194,733. STMA has a cash position of \$86,284. These are unaudited figures.

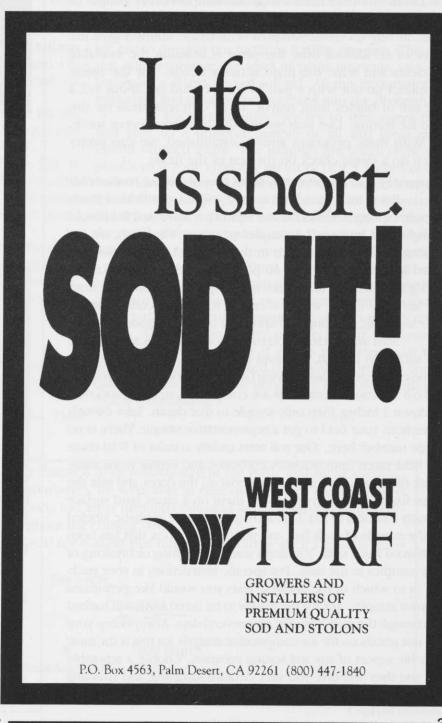
At the previous board meeting, it was decided that, following the STMA audit, 75 % of any surplus balance at year end be put into a reserve fund, separate from regular operating expense. This reserve fund may then only be used by a majority vote of the board.

1996 was a year of financial transitions, starting with a loss on the Conference in Anaheim, but ending on positive footing, showing that STMA is strong and resilient. 1997 looks to be an even stronger year.

All Committees provide reports at each board meeting. These committees include: Awards and Scholarships; By-Laws; Chapter Relations; Education; Finance; Membership; Nominations/Elections; Technical Standards; and Public Relations/Communications. A headquarters and Presidents report are also included, along with Conference Committee reports and old business and new business.

Of special interest at this meeting, the Awards and Scholarships Committee reported that not only were there are a record number of entries, the quality of the entrants was excellent. (See the announcement of award and scholarship recipients on page 13). Money raised through the Raffle and Silent Auction will continue to be earmarked for this fund.

Mike Andresen, athletic field manager for Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa, has been named Chapter liaison. Andresen will ask all Chapter presidents to serve on the Chapters Committee. Steve Trusty will continue to facilitate this committee. Bucky Trotter, chair of the Membership Committee, reported that work continues on examining membership categories, costs and methods of recruitment. Many individuals have already provided input on this issue, and Trotter welcomes all input. An in-depth discussion of membership issues will be included in the March board meeting. *continued on page 11*



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How Do You Do ...?

The Question -- How Do You Test Your Soil - and How Often?

Answered by Craig Potts, Texas A & M University

We have sand-based *and* native soil fields and they all get treated differently. Football and track are sand-based, baseball, softball and soccer are native soil.

On the baseball field, we'll do a soil sample in March and then again in October. Since we already know what our native soil has and our programs are already established, the rest is mostly just a visual thing.

On the football field, we do soil samples every couple of months just to check on the pH, etc. But mainly on that field I like to rely on tissue samples. The tissue samples give me more of an idea of how the plant is utilizing the available nutrients and what the plant actually needs. For the tissue samples, I go out with a pair of scissors and get about 1/2 a bag full of blades from maybe 10-15 different areas on the field for testing. Last year we did this just about every week.

With basic programs already established, we can pretty much do a visual check on the rest of the fields.

Answered by Ross Kurcab & Troy Smith, Denver Broncos Football Club

Being sand based, we usually soil test our fields 4 times per year (spring, summer, fall and winter). A native soil field could probably get by with 1-2 samples per year. Obviously, we are looking for the fertility levels in the fields, yet we are also very tuned in to looking at data on pH, CEC, Base Saturation Levels, Ca/Mg, and anything that stands out as significantly different from our last test. This is why it is critical to achieve consistency in your sampling, handling, and choice of reputable laboratories.

Start with a clean, non-rusted soil sampler. A small shovel can suffice. In general, you want to sample to the rooting depth of the crop that you are growing (in our case: Bluegrass/Ryegrass, and 6-8 inches). If your fields are compacted, and the roots only go down 2 inches, then only sample to that depth. Take enough cores from your field to get a representative sample. There is no magic number here. Our soil tests usually consist of 8-10 cores per field, taken from sidelines, endzones, and center worn areas. Break the above ground plant material off the cores, and mix the cores together uniformly. Air dry them on a clean, hard surface (usually 24 hours or so). Double bag the sample in plastic, labeled on the outside of each bag, and put them in a box that has been reinforced like a tank. You don't want any shifting or breaking of your samples in the mail. Put specific instructions in your package as to which of the available tests you would like performed on your sample. Ask for the results to be faxed ASAP, and backed up through the mail. This can save several days. Always keep your soil test results on file for comparative analysis, for this is the most valuable aspect of any soil testing program. Choose a reputable lab, and they will give you very detailed sampling, and handling instructions. Good luck! continued on page 5

The Stars Are Taking The Field



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Top Liner - leading the field



How Do You Do ...?

continued from page 4

Answered by Sam Clay, Tulsa (OK) Drillers

We test our field once a year in January. We take plugs from various spots all over the field and bag them up and send them to Oklahoma State University for testing. Once we have the results, we use them to plan our fertilization program for the next growing season.

Answered by Luke Yoder, Iowa Cubs

When I take my soil samples, I try to be as consistent as possible year after year. I take a 6-inch sample of soil from five different areas of the field – right field, left field, center field, infield and foul territory – because some of these areas differ. I then note the exact depth and location of the sample for the following year. If you take a 3-inch sample one year and a 6inch sample the next year, your results may end up being more confusing than helpful.

Using a different bag for each sample, I fill the bag up either 3/4 of the way or with 1# of material and send them to Harris Laboratories in Lincoln, NE.

I do my soil sampling once a year in the fall. If you have fertilized or topdressed, wait at least 2 weeks before taking a sample. I have found that by studying the fall samples year after year it becomes more possible to ensure optimum vigor in the spring.

Soil sampling is strictly a monitoring tool and by maintaining as much consistency as possible, we are able to track soil fertility, as well as many other results, over time.

If you are not currently on a soil sampling program, I recommend that you start.

Answered by Alan Dungey, Frontier Field

Through the first season on our new field we will do soil testing every six weeks or less, with tissue analysis between soil tests.

I usually split my tests into 3 or 4 groups. The

first group is the infield; we tend to fertilize the infield a little more than the rest of the field so a separate analysis will benefit us. The second group is the foul area. Small foul areas in new parks can cause irrigation difficulties, and heavy foot traffic, so a separate test is suggested. The 3rd and 4th samples come from the outfield which I divide through center field. Samples can be divided into more groups, but keep in mind that doing so can become confusing.

Answered by Gary VandenBerg, Mihvaukee Brewers Baseball Chub

Being charged with the well being of a major league field can be an ominous task. Soil tests are one tool we use to develop our turfgrass fertility program. The soil test will determine the level of plant nutrients, any salt problems, soil texture and soil pH. All this information is important and must be incorporated into the program.

1. Gathering cores: We try to take cores that will give us a uniform sample of all turf areas, and infield skinned areas. The samples are taken from the plant's root zone typically no more that 3 inches deep.

2. Sending to a lab: There are a number of different labs you can send your samples to for analysis. We try to stick with the same one because we know they will always be tested using the same techniques, which gives credibility to tests taken year after year.

3. Evaluating: When evaluating the results, we are looking for trends. If we find that levels of a particular nutrient are changing over several testings we can then change the fertilizer program to reflect that change.

This is a very brief outline of our soil testing process, but I know that it makes a difference in the quality of our turfgrass and that, when correctly done, can make the difference between a so-so field and one that is outstanding.

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Thank You to all of you who either donated to or participated in the raffle and silent auction. Because of the generosity of people such as yourselves, we were able to raise over \$3,500. Those proceeds will be used to promote better and safer sports turf areas through education and scholarship programs throughout the coming year.

Again, on behalf of STMA, THANK YOU for making this fundraising activity such a great success

Sincerely,

Mike Thigg

Mike Trigg & Troy Smith Raffle/Silent Auction Co-Chairs

A & L Analytical Labs, Inc. Richard Large Memphis, TN

Kathy Berton Rain Bird Sales, Inc. Middleton, MA

David Bruegeman S. Suburban Parks & Rec. Littleton, CO

Central Ohio Topsoil & Mulch, Inc. Doug Peabody Columbus, OH

Commercial Turf & Tractor Bryan Wood *Chillicothe, MO*

Delta Bluegrass Co. Steve Abella *Stockton, CA*

Excel Industries, Inc. Ken Raney Hesston,. KS

Pam Galley Chemsearch Corp. Irving, TX

Grassland Equip. & Irrigation John Halloran Latham, NY

David Hanus Bryan I.S.D. *Bryan, TX*

James Horton City of Birmingham Birmingham, AL

Michael Isabelle UMass Athletics Amherst, MA

Floyd A. Kerr, III Salisbury Parks & Rec. Salisbury, NC

Wayne Krabbe City of Grand Junction Grand Junction, CO

Timothy Moore. M-NCPPC *Chevy Chase, MD*

Greg Peterhans City of Grand Junction *Grand Junction, CO*

Randy Price Thomas Bros. Grass Granbury, TX Roger Adamson UC-Davis Davis, CA

Andrew Biesterfeld Crete Park District Crete, IL

Richard Buelter Jeffco Stadium Arvada, CO

Steven Chaney College Station I.S.D. College Station, TX

Cornerstone Partners, Inc. Neil L. Carter *Wheeling, IL*

Joseph Dick Howard Co. Public Schools Ellicott City, MD

Scott Fahrenbruch City of Carson City Carson City NV

Chuck Gardiner Crete Park District Crete, IL

David Green S. Suburban Parks & Rec. *Littleton, CO*

Jeff Henke City of Fort Collins Fort Collins, CO

Jay Hudson Student/Univ. of Missouri Bogard, MO

Renee' Johnson-Otote City of Flint *Flint, MI*

Glen Kinney Conejo Parks & Rec. Thousand Oaks, CA

Kevan Lindsey Munson Stadium Canton, OH

Michelle Murch Canton Township Canton, MI

James Petta Zeneca Professional Prod. New Braunfels, TX

John Reese Student/Ohio State Univ N. Royalton, OH John Adler Pittsburgh Pirates Bradenton, FL

Welcome New STMA Members

Roger Bowman Univ. of Delaware Newark, DE

Carolina Green Corp. Chad Price Indian Trail, NC

Budgie Clark Braves/Expos Joint Venture W. Palm Beach, FL

DTN Weather Center Jay Ferguson Omaha, NE

Du Cor International Jeff Scott *Orlando, FL*

Larry Feller Zeneca Professional Prod. *Mt. Pleasant, SC*

Steve Gold Wilmington Blue Rocks Wilmington, DE

Bruce Hagen City of Grand Junction *Grand Junction, CO*

John H. Hilson, III Burton F. Clark, Inc. Delhi, NY

Don Hulla S. Suburban Parks & Rec. *Littleton, CO*

Bruce Jordan Waverly Central High Waverly, TN

Roy Kirchner New Haven Ravens *W. Haven, CT*

Sarah Martin Student/Colorado State Univ. Oklahoma City, OK

Marty Oglesby Millington Telephone. Millington, TN

Bart Prather University of Arkansas Fayetteville, AR

William Reinohl Univ. of Maryland College Park, MD Shelby Bartlett City of Green River Green River WY

Michael Brown United Hort. Supply Rosalia, WA

Tim Carr Univ. of New Hampshire Durham, NH

Joe Collins Samford University Birmingham, AL

Roger Daigle City of Fort Collins Fort Collins, CO

Steve Dugas Pepperdine University Malibu, CA

Ron Felt City of Grand Junction Grand Junction, CO

Frank Goodell, Jr. NYC Dept. of Parks Staten Island, NY

Eric Hansen Los Angeles Dodgers Los Angeles, CA

Greg Hipp NFL/Cleveland Browns Trust Berea, OH

Ironite Products, Inc. Steve Badger Woodland Hills, CA

Shannon Kent Mitchell Parks & Rec. *Mitchell, SD*

Karen Knott Hampton Roads. Soccer Cncl. Virginia Beach, VA

Scott Forsyth Miller Student/Iowa State Univ. Ames, IA

Michael M. Owen Zeneca Professional Prod. *Clermont, FL*

Bret Prather War Memorial Stadium Little Rock, AR

Carl Reuter The Colorado College Colorado Springs, CO

WE HAVE A RECORD NUMBER OF NEW MEMBERS THIS ISSUE -- New members continued on page 9

Editors Note: Albert P. Hoffend, St. John Fisher College, was misspelled in the last newsletter. I apologize for any inconvenience. Sq

Bryan, TX



Sports Turf Happenings



Chapter Events

Minnesota Chapter:STMA

The Minnesota Chapter has elected its 1997 officers and board members. President is Shannon Hendrickson, Farmington Schools; Past President is Ken Dehkes, Hamline University, St. Paul; President-Elect is Paul Griffin, City of Woodbury; Secretary/Treasurer is Connie Rudolph, Midway Stadium, St. Paul; Minnesota Turf & Grounds Foundation Representative is Tom Rudberg, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul; and Director at Large is Mike Kelly, Glen Rehbein Companies, Inc., Blaine. MN. The events schedule for 1997 is in the planning stages.

For information on the Minnesota Chapter or upcoming activities, contact: Connie Rudolph at (612) 644-0639.

The Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association

The Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association's Annual Membership Meeting was held at 3:00 PM on January 28th at the Des Moines Convention Center in conjunction with the 63rd Annual Iowa Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show.

Those elected at the meeting include: Southwest Representative, Charles Vance, AVP Construction, Oakland; Central Iowa Representative, Bill Antons, Boone Community Schools; and At-Large Representatives, Ron Crooker, of Upper Iowa University, Fayette; and Kevin Vos, Muscatine Soccer Complex. Vos, who served as Vice-President in 1996, will serve as President in 1997. Rick Simpson, South Tama Schools, becomes Past President.

Mike Andresen, Iowa State University, had resigned his board position as Central Representative to accept the position as Iowa Turfgrass Institute Representative, replacing Mike McCaffrey who has given nine years of service in that role.

Continuing their terms as Board members are: Ron Dykstra, Northwest College, Orange City; Dan Wright, Central College, Pella; Todd Garstang, Davenport Schools; Dale Roe, Iowa State University; Luke Yoder, Iowa Cubs; Bryan Wood, Commercial Turf & Tractor; and Mike Grooms, United Seed. The new board is planning an exciting and event-filled 1997.

For more information on the Iowa Chapter or upcoming activities, contact: Lori Westrum at The Turf Office at (515) 232-8222 (phone) or (515) 232-8228 (fax).

Florida Chapter #1: STMA

The Florida Chapter will hold a Field Day on March 13th at the University of Florida in Davie. CEUs will be offered for the educational sessions at this full-day meeting.

The Chapter's next STMA meeting is scheduled for April 8th in Parkland, Florida. Included will be a mound building seminar and a tour of the new park facility.

For more information on these events, other upcoming activities or the Florida Chapter, contact: John Mascaro (954) 938-7477.

Southern California Chapter:STMA

The Southern California Chapter board is in the process of planning special events for 1997 and 1998. For information on the Southern California Chapter or pending activities, contact: Chris Bunnell at (619) 432-2421.

Midwest Chapter: STMA

The Midwest Chapter:STMA is putting together the 1997 schedule of events. For information on the Midwest Chapter or pending activities, call: The Chapter Hotline (847) 439-4727.

STMA Chapters on the Grow: The Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization (KAFMO Chapter STMA)

This active group is currently working toward STMA affiliation.

Their next event, The Athletic Field Maintenance Conference, will be held from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM on March 20th at Allegheny College in Meadville, PA. For more information on this meeting or the organization, contact: Dan Douglas, Reading Phillies Baseball Club, at (610) 375-8469, extension 212.

Great Plains Sports Turf Managers Association

For information on the Great Plains Sports Turf Mangers Association or pending events, contact: Mark Schimming at (316) 729-5839.

Arizona:

For information on the Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona or upcoming events, contact: Bill Murphy, City of Scottsdale Parks and Recreation Department, at (602) 994-7954.

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Doc's Dugout - An Inning from Our Past

by Dr. Kent Kurtz - STMA Historian

Uppon my return home from the STMA Annual Conference & Exhibition in Colorado Springs, I took a moment to reflect on the tremendous impact STMA has had on my life and on me as a person. I feel privileged to have seen where STMA has been and to now have a glimpse of where STMA is going. And believe me, the future has never looked brighter.

During my years of involvement with STMA, I have known many of STMA's "Founding Fathers" on a professional and personal basis. I spent countless hours sharing meals, ideas, and fellowship and touring their facilities. In future issues, I plan to share much more about some of those pioneers.

Harry C. Gill, Jr., the "Founding Father," had a dream and a vision of taking the groundskeeping profession out of its antiquated state where secrets of the trade were private, personal and never shared, to a new plateau in which the "tricks of the trade" began to be shared. Help and friendship began to become commonplace and new ideas became available to everyone who wanted to learn.

Harry rose above the others in his profession in the late 1970s when he took the lead and began sending Christmas cards to fellow professionals, some he knew, but many he didn't.

The message he sent in those cards was his desire to gather together once per year for the purpose of sharing and learning from each other while at the same time assisting those less skilled to learn and to achieve higher standards. Well, it worked. The formational STMA meeting was held on March 4, 1981, in conjunction with the 1981 Midwest Regional Turf Conference at Purdue University. That first meeting brought together more than 30 individuals who shared a common bond, groundskeeping.

Who Were The Officers Elected in 1981?

President, Dick Ericson, Metropolitan Stadium, Bloomington MN; Vice President, Harry C Gill, Jr., Milwaukee County Stadium, Milwaukee, WI; Treasurer, Dan Weisenberger, Intercollegiate Athletic Administration, Purdue University; Executive Secretary, Erik Madisen, Jr., National Institute of Park & Grounds Management, Appleton, WI.

Who Were the Directors Elected in 1981?

Tony Burnett, RFK Memorial Stadium, Washington D.C.; Jay Bolt, Grand Valley State College, Allendale, MI; Pete DeVos, Culver Military Academy, Culver, IN; Robert Gillie, Fort Wayne Community Schools, Fort Wayne, IN; Dale Sandin, The Orange Bowl, Miami, FL; George Toma, Kansas City Royals & Chiefs, Kansas City, MO.

A Profile of STMA's First President - Dick Ericson

Dick Ericson was just a kid when his career as a groundskeeper began in 1942 at Lexington Park, home of the old class AAA St. Paul Saints minor league team in Minnesota. After a stint in the Korean War as a sea plane tender on a navy ship in Korean waters, Dick returned to the Twin Cities in 1952.

Thrilled to be back on land after the war, he took a job as head groundskeeper at the Niccollet Park for the New York Giants' Minneapolis Millers Class AAA team. Ironically, the New York Giants were scheduled to move to the newly built Metropolitan Stadium in 1956, but the O'Malley family convinced the Giants' owner, Horace Stoneham, to follow the Dodgers to the West Coast.

Major league baseball finally came to Metropolitan Stadium in 1961 when the Washington Senators moved to become the Minnesota Twins. This is when Dick began to work his magic. For two decades Dick made his appointed rounds – through rain, mud, sleet, snow and bitter cold temperatures. The "Met," as it was called, was always ready for the Twins and Vikings, even if it took hay bales, space heaters and work shifts until 4:00 AM in 30 degree below zero weather.

Sometimes, in a friendly sort of way, he had to put up with the whims of Minnesota players and coaches.

"Billy Martin always wanted me to keep the grass long at third base so the ball would slow down for Harmon Killebrew," Dick said, "But Harmon would keep telling me to cut it so the ball would get there faster. Martin and Killebrew never did agree."

So Dick did it has way.

Dick was very diligent in maintaining the home field advantage, one that sometimes stretched the outer limits of baseball's rule book. Dick remembers the 1965 World Series against the Dodgers and Maury Wills. "We put seven wheelbarrow loads of sand near first base to reduce Will's ability to steal second base. The umpire eventually caught on and made us take some of the sand out. But when the umpires were done with us, we still had six loads in there.

"Sometimes we would also move the fence in or out and adjust the height up or down at the beginning of the season. But which direction depended upon the ability of the power hitters and pitchers each season."

Finally, in 1981, when Herbert H. Humphrey Metrodome was completed, the Twins, Vikings, Minnesota Golden Gophers and Dick Ericson all moved their talents there. And until 1995, when Dick Ericson retired, he was the only head groundskeeper the Minnesota Twins ever had.

Dick Ericson's true dedication to the profession has touched many people, including me. And there wasn't a blade of grass at the old Met Stadium or a piece of carpet at the Metrodome that hasn't been touched by his hands.

We all wish Dick much happiness and success in his retirement. STMA won't forget your contributions, Dick. We all hope you will continue to attend our meetings when you are able and that you will be a driving force in our future.

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Scenes from the Welcome Reception, Red Lion Hotel, Colorado Springs, CO



Welcome New STMA Members

John Ross Student/Ohio State Univ. N. Royalton, OH

Jason Sharpe Student/Spartanburg Tec. Taylors, SC

Thomas J. Spino TPC of the Woodlands The Woodlands, TX

Dave Tuchek City of Redmond. Redmond, WA

Rocky Williams S. Suburban Parks & Rec. *Littleton, CO* Scott Sarver Point Loma Nazerene Coll. Davis, CA

Gary Shepard Indianapolis Indians Indianapolis, IN

SportGrass, Inc. Webb Cook McClean, VA

Mike Vendegna City of Grand Junction Grand Junction, CO

Cindy Winfield Student/Coll. of DuPage Glendale Hghts., IL continued from page 6 Ronald E. Schmoyer I. ISS Landscape Mgmt. Svcs. Tampa, FL

> Jim Shone Zeneca Professional Prod. St. Charles, IL

Stihl, Inc. Gary Hardee Virginia Beach, VA

Staffon Warn Lamar School Dist. Re2 Lamar, CO

Zeneca Professional Prod. Steve Dal Sasso Greenwood, IN Jean Scott Zeneca Professional Prod. Salisbury, MD

Lynn Smitherman Academy S.D. #20 Colorado Springs, CO

Ronald Summers Univ. of the South Sewanee, TN

Jack G. Welch Zeneca Professional Prod. *Marysville, OH*

Cut Field Care Costs

information provided by Novartis Turf & Ornamental Products

Several severa

Rapid turf growth and the necessary, regular mowing schedule meant much of the paint was clipped off – and more of his crew member's time was needed for repainting.

For his bermudagrass fields, Feudale mixed the PGR $Primo^{\mathbb{R}}$ into his field paint at the ratio of

one fluid ounce per gallon of finished paint. Crews could mow right over the lines without affecting the painted turf, allowing Feudale to eliminate two to three paintings a month. He'd reduced the crew labor hours needed for field painting and saved costs of additional paint.

Some PGRs (called Type I) inhibit cell division and plant growth. Other PGRs (called Type II) interfere with gibberellic acid biosynthesis, which reduces growth and shortens stem (internode) elongation. Your supplier can help guide you to the best choice for your own field pattern use.



STMA Board Meeting Report

continued from page 3

The board asked Executive Director Trusty and all STMA staff members to leave the room so that results of the board member's individual evaluations of Trusty and the management firm could be discussed. Trusty was then given a brief review of the discussion and presented with the written results of the evaluation and specific goals set by the board. This is an annual process.

The Board addressed final details of the Colorado Springs Conference. Rulli explained the procedures for the Cripple Creek excursion, a fund-raising project for the host Chapter, and the tie-in ice-breaker for the opening reception.

Also discussed were preliminary details of the 9th Annual Conference to be held January 14 - 18, 1998, at Walt Disney World in Florida and Disney's new Sports Complex. The March 14-15 Board meeting will be held at the Disney property for in-depth Conference planning.

STMA Annual Meeting Report

President Mike Schiller called the meeting to order at 4:45 PM. He opened with a welcome to all and gave an overview of 1996, a successful year for STMA. Schiller thanked all those whose contributions of time, talent and financial resources made it possible. He introduced all officers, board members and the STMA staff members.

Schiller thanked the Colorado Chapter for all their work on the Conference and also thanked the hosts of the venues on the Seminar on Wheels tours for sharing their facilities and their expertise.

Secretary Eugene Mayer submitted the agenda for approval. Copies of the agenda, along with election ballots and proxy forms were mailed to all members prior to the Conference.

Bucky Trotter gave the membership report. From 1996 membership of between 550 and 600 members, as of December 31, 1996, membership stood at 854 and new members are coming on board almost daily. Membership growth by region and category is remaining within one or two percentage points of previous figures. Trotter noted that while this growth is good progress, it's miniscule compared to the number of potential STMA members and urged everyone to recruit actively. Recognition of the sports turf manager within the green industry, facility owners and managers and the public and our ability to get things done will increase proportionately with our numbers.

Treasurer Rich Moffitt gave the financial and treasurers report which included the details provided in the board meeting report above.

Bob Milano, Awards and Scholarships Committee Chair, noted that he, Dr. Henry Indyk and Jesse Cuevas judged this year's entrants. Milano noted that recipients would be announced at the banquet.

As Chair of the By-Laws Committee, Greg Petry reported some changes have been suggested by the board and that the By-Laws, including those changes have been submitted to an attorney for review. Once the review is completed, the By-Laws will come back to the board for presentation to the membership. Any recommended changes will be subject to approval by the membership.

As Immediate Past President, Petry also reported on the meeting of the Past Presidents Council Long-Range Planning Committee, which held its first meeting in conjunction with the Conference. Their recommendations include a more active outreach within the industry to such groups as the Stadium Managers and Athletic Trainers; the development of educational materials that are both practical and useable; the promotion of *continued on page 14*



Headquarters Update

by Steve Trusty, Executive Director

If you were in Colorado Springs, you were part of STMA's largest and most successful Conference ever. Preliminary accounting tells us that 223 people were in attendance. That number does not include the over 120 Exhibitor personnel that showed off their wares in a record 68 booths. Thanks for being there and a special thanks for all your kind comments. As great as this 8th Annual Conference was, I'm sure there are things that we could do to make the next one even better. If you haven't filled out that evaluation form that was in your notebook, please do so ASAP. Your board will be meeting March 14th and 15th in Orlando. The more input they receive, the better chance they have of meeting YOUR needs. While everyone likes to hear good things, we really like constructive criticism also. What we don't know can hurt us all.

For those of you who didn't make it to Colorado, we'd like to hear from you also. What can we do to provide what you want to get you to future conferences? The date and location for the next one is set. Are you making plans now to attend next January 14 - 18 at Walt Disney World's Coronado Springs Resort? If not, why not? Please tell us!

STMA is starting the process towards another important milestone. Your Certification Committee held their initial meeting in Colorado Springs on January 17th. They are putting a lot of thought into the process and will be putting a considerable amount of time into the project. Their next meeting will be a day-long working session on March 16th. Here again, your input is needed to help put together the program that is best for STMA and the Sports Turf Manager of tomorrow. The committee is well aware that they cannot please everyone, but they want to at least have the opportunity to address all concerns. Please take a few minutes to jot down your thoughts on certification and mail, fax or email them into Headquarters. We will get your thoughts sent to all of the committee members.

Dr. Henry Indyk is the Chair for the Certification Committee. Other members include: Steve Cockerham, University of California - Riverside; Dale Getz, University of Notre Dame; Dr. Tony Koski, Colorado State University; Ross Kurcab, Denver Broncos Football Club; Dr. David Minner, Iowa State University; Mary Owen, University of Massachusetts Extension; Bob Patt, City of Canton, Ohio; Vince Patterozzi, Baltimore Ravens, Floyd Perry; Grounds Maintenance Services and Dr. A. J. Powell, University of Kentucky. When you get a chance, thank these individuals for agreeing to take on this monumental task. You may also express your thoughts on certification directly to any of these people when you take the opportunity to visit with them. They all are committed to assisting in putting together the best certification program possible.

Your association ended the year with 854 members. Additional new members are coming in on an almost daily basis. Renewals are also coming in very strong. In fact, between the record turnout for the conference, the renewals and new members, your headquarters has gotten behind in getting the membership certificates out to new and renewed members. The new directory is also behind schedule. Hopefully by the time you read this, we will be nearly caught up. Getting the directory to the printer is next on the agenda after this newsletter and getting all membership certificates out follows close behind. If you haven't done so already, you can save us the time of sending out reminders to nonrenewed members by sending in your dues payment now. Please go-ahead and inundate us with new member applications. Let others know about STMA. We have just received a new supply of membership brochures. If you would like some to hand out to others, just let us know.

Headquarters has received a number of inquiries from various parts of the country about forming chapters. Look over the Chapter Events column. If you have a Chapter in your area, get involved. If you would like to help get a chapter going, let headquarters know. You'll see by the activities of others that being involved on the Chapter level can be very worthwhile. We again have Chapter Sponsors that fund the Chapter visits from headquarters. I hope to see you soon!

Employment Opportunities

The *Beloit (WI) Snappers* and the *Quad City River Bandits (IA)* have openings for Head Groundskeeper.

The *Toronto Blue Jays Florida Operations* has an opening for a Grounds Superintendent.

Wichita (KS) Baseball has an opening for a Groundskeeper.

The *San Bernardino Stampede* has an opening for an Assistant Head Groundskeeper at their new stadium.

The *Michigan Battle Cats Baseball Club* has openings for Sports Turf Management Internships for working on the grounds crew at Bailey Park.

The *Butte (MT) Copper Kings Baseball Club*, Rookie League affiliate of the Anaheim Angels, has an opening for Groundskeeper

For more information on these openings contact STMA Headquarters at (800) 323-3875.

SPORTS TURF MANAGERS ASSOCIATION ISSUES AWARDS

Bawards Banquet at the Red Lion Hotel in Colorado Springs. The Harry C. Gill Award, STMA Groundskeeper of the Year, was presented to Greg

Petry, Executive Director of the Waukegan Park District, Waukegan, IL, by last year's recipient, Dr. Gil Landry. The Harry C. Gill Award is the most prestigious honor



issued by STMA. Petry has given extraordinary service to STMA over the last eight years, serving on the board, as President and currently as immediate past-President. His commitment to STMA and guidance of the Association's growth and development have been outstanding.

Recipient of the Outstanding Commercial Affiliate Award for 1996 was Partac Peat Corporation, Great Meadows, New Jersey. The Award was presented to Partac Peat in recognition of the company's longstanding and continuing support of STMA. Professionalism within the sports turf industry has been

increased through The Beam Clay[®] Baseball Diamond of the Year Awards which are jointly sponsored by the company, sportsTURF magazine and STMA.

The Presidents Award

was given to the Colorado Chapter of STMA in acknowledgment of their outstanding efforts in preparations for and hosting of the 1997 Annual STMA



Conference and Exhibition. Ken Norkosky, Dave Rulli and Troy Smith accepted the award.

The Excellence in Research Award was presented to Dr. Kent Kurtz, Professor, turfgrass science, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, for his ongoing efforts in turfgrass research.

Also during the Sports Turf Managers Association's (STMA) 8th Annual Conference and Exhibition held January 15 to 19, 1997, in Colorado Springs, two extraordinary individuals were named Honorary Life Members – Dick Ericson, retired from the Minneapolis Metrodome, and George Toma (*pictured top right*), Kansas City Royals and NFL Field consultant. These two men were among the key leaders in the sports turf industry who

formed STMA in 1981, believing that sports turf could most effectively be improved through the sharing of knowl-



edge and the exchange of ideas.

Ericson served as STMA's first president, presiding over the young organization in 1981 and 1982. Toma has consistently strived to bring greater visibility to STMA's focus on promoting better and safer sports turf areas. The dedication, sharing and mentoring of these two men are renowned throughout the industry.

Ericson and Toma join the select body of Honorary Life Members: Dr. John R. Hall II, Extension Agronomics Turf, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA; Dr. William Kneebone, Professor Emeritus, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ; Dr. Kent Kurtz, Professor, turfgrass science, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona; Mr. Thomas Mascaro, Turf-Tec International, Oakland, FL; Mr. John Souter, turfgrass consultant, Perthsire, Scotland, and Mr. Jeff Wishard (deceased).

Also issued at the banquet were the Field of the Year Awards. The Collegiate Football Field of the Year Award was presented to Jack Trice Field,

Cyclone Stadium, of Iowa State University, Ames, IA. Athletic Turf Manager for the field is Mike Andresen (*at right*). The High School

Football Field of the Year Award was presented to Flinn

Memorial Stadium of the Quincy Public Schools, Quincy, IL. Kurt Knuf, turf manager submitted the application for the school district.

In addition, STMA awarded a certificate for "Special Recognition for Community Involvement and Most Improved Field in a Year's Time" to John Reed Football Field of Riverside High School in Oakland, IA. Co-sponsors of this field were Richard Harris, Athletic Director, Dave Thomas, School Superintendent, and Charles Vance. Vance, Creative Landscapes of Iowa, accepted the award on behalf of the field. *continued on page 15*

STMA Annual Meeting Report

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the benefits and values of proper management, based on research. They also recommend beginning a study to accurately define the sports turf market in terms of who, how many and where. These recommendations have been presented to the board for consideration.

Chair Dr. Henry Indyk reported that the Certification Committee held their initial meeting at the Conference. The Committee noted that with the wide-ranging differences within the sports turf management field there will be multiple issues to consider. Dr. Indyk issued a call for input, in writing, to be sent to STMA headquarters by all those interested in contributing to this effort. The next meeting will be held on March 16th, in conjunction with the next STMA board meeting, so the sooner input is received the sooner it can be passed along to all committee members.

Steve Trusty reported that STMA currently has six officially affiliated chapters. During the past year, thanks to funding by 1996 Chapter sponsors, John Deere and The Scotts Company, Trusty made visits to all affiliated chapters plus four groups either in the formative stages or existing groups considering affiliation. Trusty and Schiller presented STMA gavels to the six affiliated chapters. Ken Norkosky accepted the gavel for the Colorado Chapter; Dave Minner for the Iowa Chapter; Marc VanLanduyt for the Midwest Chapter; Mike McDonald for the Minnesota Chapter, and Chris Bunnell for the Southern California Chapter. The gavel will be presented to Florida Chapter #1 at a later date.

Trusty also noted that an active organization in Pennsylvania, the Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization (KAFMO), is in the process of finalizing formal affiliation with STMA as the KAFMO Chapter STMA. The former Chesapeake Chapter, which is currently operating as MAFMO, is making plans to rejoin the STMA organization.

Trusty noted that Novartis, formerly Ciba, will be a Chapter Sponsor for 1997.

Chair of the Education Committee, Mary Owen, urged attendees to provide input on the Conference program through the evaluation forms included in the notebook. All input will be considered in planning the educational program for the 1998 Conference.

President Schiller reported that the Historical Committee, under the Chairmanship of Dr. Kent Kurtz, and with the assistance of Past President Mark Hodnick, has been busy categorizing materials from the archives for display and thanked them for their efforts.. Dr. Kurtz, assisted by Tom Lincoln, has provided the display by the registration area. The Historical Display will become a part of each Conference.

Dr. Gil Landry, Co-Chair of the Public Relations/Communications Committee, reported that the outreach continues with over 30 articles provided to Turf industry publications. Dr. Landry thanked John Deere for their financial support of this outreach effort and their funding of the public relations efforts on behalf of the chapters.

The newsletter, Sports Turf Manager, has expanded to 12 and sometimes 16 pages. Dr. Landry thanked The Toro Company for their financial support of the newsletter.

He reminded members that this committee is always open to their input.

Steve Guise, Chair of the Standards Committee, reported that he, Steve Wightman, and/or another committee member have attended all meetings of the American Society of Testing Materials again this past year. ASTM is working to identify the Clegg Impact Hammer as a standard measure of measuring hardness. They are also working on developing standards for ball field construction.

Steve Wightman reported on the first meeting of Category I members, those managing professional sports turf facilities. They are looking at how they, as a group, can make the Association stronger and become a resource within the Association for all members. One area of focus will be standards.

Greg Petry introduced the election of officers. It was noted that a call for nominations was mailed to all members along with the slate of officers and board members proposed by the nominating committee. No other nominations were received. Ballots with the slate of officers and board members were then mailed to all members for a vote. The slate as presented was duly elected.

President Schiller noted that now is the time for all those interested in the governance of the association to become involved actively on a committee and to express their interest in a board position. The more hands to carry the load, the easier the task becomes for everyone. Please get involved and help STMA grow.

Conference Chair Steve Guise asked Trusty to give Future Conference details. The 1998 Conference will be held January 14 - 18 at the Coronado Springs Resort at Walt Disney World in Florida and at the Disney World Sports Complex. The 1999 Conference will be held January 13 - 17 at the Sheraton Mesa in Phoenix, Arizona.

With no new business brought to the floor, the meetingwas adjourned.STM

Make your plans NOW for the STMA 9th Annual Conference and Exhibition at Walt Disney World in Florida from January 14th to 18th, 1998.

Plans are under way to maintain the best features of past conferences while providing new and exciting additions in

response to members' and exhibitors' requests and to take advantage of the unique attractions offered by the Disney facility and the Orlando, Florida, area.

SPORTS TURF MANAGERS ASSOCIATION ISSUES AWARDS

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The Soccer Field of the Year Award was presented to Legion Field of the City of Birmingham, AL. Director James Boynton III accepted this award.

The Softball Field of the Year Award was presented to Jim Drikakis field of John Bailey Park in Battle Creek, MI. Mike



Varner (*right*), Head Groundskeeper of the Michigan Battle Cats Baseball Club and Jim Drikakis Field, accepted the award.

The baseball field awards, deemed the

Beam Clay[®] Baseball Diamond of the Year Awards are given in three categories. These awards are sponsored jointly by STMA,

sportsTURF magazine, and Beam Clay[®].

The Beam Clay[®] Professional Baseball Diamond of the Year Award was given to Thomas J. Dodd Memorial Stadium, home of the Norwich Navigators, the Eastern League Double-A Affiliate of the New York Yankees since 1995. Will Schnell is Stadium Superintendent for the facility.

The Beam Clay[®] College Baseball Diamond of the Year Award was presented to the University of Miami at Coral Gables, Florida, for the Miami Hurricane's Mark Light Stadium. Kevin Hardy is Head Groundskeeper for Mark Light Stadium. Hardy was on hand to accept his award from former Field of the Year Award winner and one of this year's judges, Tom Burns. Burns is now Director, Major League Field Operations for the Texas Rangers, Arlington, Texas.

The Beam Clay® Diamond of the Year Award in the Athletic Park, the outstanding ballfield in Wausau, Wisconsin. Park Manager, Greg Freix, maintains the Athletic Park for the City of Wausau and the Marathon County Park Department.

The STMA also issued two scholar-

ships at its 8th Annual Conference and Exhibition. The STMA Annual

Scholarship was presented to Jeff Salmond (*above*), a graduate student majoring in Horticulture/Turfgrass Management at Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa.

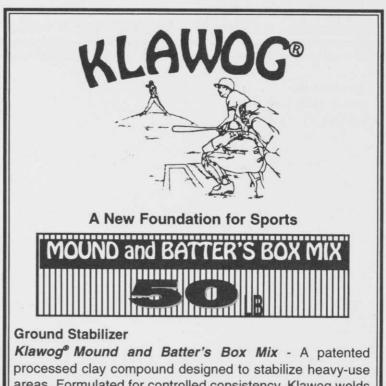
The Dr. Fred Grau



Scholarship was presented to David Paul Bearden, Jr., a sophomore majoring in Turf

Management/Sports Fields at Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, MS.

STMA recognizes that the future of the industry lies in the education, dedication and commitment of outstanding students such as these.



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