

ST. PAUL SAINTS HELP HONOR STMA FOUNDER

The full house at Midway Stadium in St. Paul had the opportunity to help recognize one of the STMA founders on July 16th. Over 5,000 people cheered after President Mike Schiller presented Dick Ericson with his STMA Honorary Life membership. The St. Paul Saints also honored Dick by allowing him to throw out the first ball for their game against Madison.

Dick was originally scheduled to be honored at last January's banquet, but due to his wife's hospitalization he had a rare absence

each other and other sports turf managers rather than keep everything a big secret. Not only did they want to share their ideas with others who worked for professional baseball and football, they wanted to help those working with all types of sports fields all across the country. Dick served as STMA's first President in 1981 and 1982.

We all owe Dick Ericson a special thanks for helping STMA get started - and for his continued support.



Dick Ericson (l) is presented his STMA Honorary Life Membership Plaque by Mike Schiller (r) as Steve Trusty (c) looks on.



Dick Ericson throws the first pitch of the game at the impressive Midway Stadium.



Dick Ericson is presented with the game ball by the catcher for the St. Paul Saints.

from the conference. She is now fine and got to sit in on the special honors put together with the assistance of Connie Rudolph who is now in charge of Midway Stadium. Dick informed us just before we entered the stadium that he got his start in baseball as the Assistant Groundskeeper for the St. Paul Saints in 1948. As the Saints announcer stated over the loudspeaker, "it was a homecoming for Dick."

Dick was honored for his foresight in helping found STMA and for his lifelong support. He, along with George Toma, and the late Harry Gill were contacted by the late Dr. William Daniel from Purdue University. They collectively felt that it was time to share their ideas with

As an added benefit, by the act of formally honoring Dick, STMA has received some additional recognition by Minnesota baseball fans and media. *STM*

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Volume XV Number 4
July/August 1997

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Sports Turf Manager is a publication of Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA). It is published bi-monthly and is free to STMA members. Sports Turf Managers' goal is to promote the mission of the association by providing a channel for communication between the representatives of the board and its constituency. STMA is not responsible for the opinions expressed in this publication. Address changes, advertising, photographs, and editorial inquiries should be directed to the executive offices. © 1997 Sports Turf Managers Association. All Rights Reserved.

President's Message

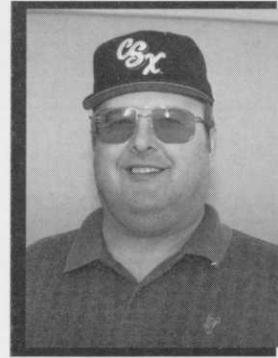
by Mike Schiller, President

1997 is fast becoming a banner year for STMA. Your Conference Committee is putting the finishing touches on plans for the 9th Annual Conference, "Meeting the Challenges," to be held January 14 - 18, 1998, in Orlando, Florida - and I'm REALLY EXCITED about it. The beautiful, new Disney facility, the Coronado Springs Resort, is our headquarters hotel. The multi-sports complex, Disney's Wide World of Sports, is the center for our indoor trade show and outside demonstrations. We'll not only tour the complex, but also see some "tricks of the trade" that allow them to handle "in the spotlight," back-to-back events.

This committee has really listened to your suggestions. There will be three topic choices for each of our concurrent sessions with something for you, whether you're just starting out, already an experienced sports turf manager, or somewhere in between. The Round Table program has been expanded to three 30-minute segments, with even more choices of topics. Dynamic presenters on "Meeting the Challenges" include Reggie Williams, former NFL linebacker with the Cincinnati Bengals and now Vice President of Disney's Wide World of Sports, and Captain Al Haynes, who piloted that "impossible" life-saving landing in Sioux City, Iowa, a task that flight simulators still can't duplicate.

With the Board's official recognition of the MAFMO Chapter at our July Board Meeting, STMA has welcomed two Chapters within this past year. A budding Chapter in Northern California is taking shape with a solid core of "founders" and 25 members already signed on.

The recommendations of your Awards and Scholarship Committee have been approved by the Board. They are calling for your thoughtful consideration of those individuals worthy of nomination for the four individual Founders Awards: The George Toma "Golden Rake" Award, the Dick Ericson Award, the Dr. William Daniel Award, and The Harry Gill Award. The Scholarship program has been expanded, making it even more worthwhile for students preparing for this profession. (See the article on page 12).



Mike Schiller

Your Certification Committee continues to move forward, with its second meeting, on August 2nd, focusing on all of the input received from you - the members - to date, and fine-tuning the program. If you've been thinking about voicing your comments and suggestions, DO IT NOW. This Committee will be presenting its recommendations to the STMA Board at our next meeting. (November 14 - 15, 1997 in Mesa, Arizona) PLEASE give them time to consider your input by providing it to Headquarters no later than September 5th. It's really a painless process. You can send a fax, a letter or an e-mail message. You can even relay your thoughts by phone. All input will be forwarded to all Certification Committee members.

Membership is growing in all categories, in all sections of the country. Your compendium of STMA articles, Sports Turf Topics, has arrived on your desk. Our international outreach continues through the publication, International Baseball Rundown, with the help of Murray Cook and IBR Editor, Jeff Elijah. Thanks to the efforts of Mark Razum, Alan Sigwardt, Steve Wightman, Gary VandenBerg, and David Mellor, and the great showcase provided by David Cassidy, Editor of the new consumer magazine, Home, Lawn and Leisure, the man (and woman) in the suburbs gained some understanding of baseball's "pattern master magic" and the role of the sports turf manager in field care.

It seems to me that "Meeting the Challenges" is exactly what we're doing. THANKS to all of you! And keep up the good work!

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Meeting the Challenges - The 1998 Conference Will Challenge You

by Mary Owen - Program Chair

Your 1998 Conference will challenge YOU with an information-packed program and a great line-up of speakers. On Thursday morning, you'll get the official introduction of the STMA Certification Program; find out "How to Get Hired and Fired as a Sports Turf Manager" from Mike Varner of the Michigan Battle Cats, get the low-down on "Weather: Understanding Patterns and Forecasts" from Jay Ferguson of DTN Weather Systems; and hear from John Souter, Turfgrass Consultant based in Perthshire, Scotland, and one of STMA's Honorary Life Members, about his vision of "Stadia of the Future." And that's all before lunch!

For the afternoon's "Triple Header" concurrent sessions, John Souter will return as one of the speakers in the Sand Based Field "track" to address "Overseeing Installation of Sand Based Fields."

The Pest Management "track" of

the Thursday afternoon concurrent sessions kicks off with "Developing an Integrated Approach to Pest Management" by Dr. Monica Elliott of the University of Florida; and focuses on management strategies for turf insects, diseases and weeds with Elliott, Dr. Will Hudson of the University of Georgia, and Dr. Wayne Mixson, of The Scotts Company's Florida Research Field Station.

Running in that same time slot of concurrent sessions is the Agronomics "track" which includes presentations by John Mascaro of Turf-Tec International on aeration and cultivation; Dr. Grady Miller of the University of Florida on using gray water, ...and more.

Some of Saturday's speakers include: Floyd Perry, Mike Trigg, Dale Getz, Tom Burns and Jesse Cuevas and then come the Round Tables and...it's going to be GREAT. Mark your calendars NOW.

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STMA Board Meeting Report

The STMA Board met on July 11th and 12th, 1997, at the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio, a possible site for use in future national or regional meetings.

Board members reviewed current financial reports and the auditors report from fiscal year 1996. STMA has improved its financial stability from June 30th of 1996 to June 30th of 1997 and, as directed at the last Board meeting, has established an interest-bearing account for reserve funds, the expenditure of which may only be authorized by a two-thirds vote of the STMA Board.

Following a review of past decisions on scholarship and awards programs, the Awards and Scholarship Committee presented their recommendations for changes to the Board. These were unanimously approved. (See the article on pages 12 and 13.)

The Mid-Atlantic Athletic Field Managers Organization (MAFMO Chapter STMA) completed the requirements for affiliation and was officially recognized by the Board. The Board expressed thanks to the 1997 Chapter Sponsors for the funding that allows on-site visits to affiliated chapters and selected active forming chapters that are making significant progress toward affiliation. Planned site visits were discussed.

The Nominations Committee asked that a call for nominations for the Board positions which will come up for vote in 1998 be made in the next newsletter. (See article on page 9.)

The Certification Committee reported that following their August 2nd meeting, they will be putting together the formal recommendation for Board consideration at the November meeting in preparation for official introduction of the program to STMA members at the 1998 Conference.

Conference details were a major focus of this Board Meeting with Conference Chair Steve Guise, Program Chair Mary Owen, Exhibits Chair Bob Curry, committee members Murray Cook, Dr. Henry Indyk and Eugene Mayer all in attendance. After study of the Conference budget, registration fees for member attendees were set at \$275 for early registration; \$300 for late registration. Non-member, student and single day attendance fees are being established according to this base figure.

More on this Board Meeting in the next issue.

The Board's next meeting is November 14th and 15th in Mesa, AZ, site of the 1999 STMA Annual Conference.

Member input is always welcome. Please contact Headquarters or any of your Board members. *STM*



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RECRUITING AND COORDINATING VOLUNTEER EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN PUBLIC SPORTS FIELDS*

by Dr. Richard G. Caton

The United States is in the grip of a growing dilemma surrounding the demand by the public for space to carry on athletic activities. In almost every community across the country we see desperate struggles between those who desire to use athletic fields and those who control and maintain the available facilities. We simply have more requests for athletic field use than can be accommodated in any kind of sensible fashion.

When we say "sensible fashion" we refer to the prudent use of a particular facility that allows for the field to be taken out of play periodically so that cultural practices can be employed to keep the fields in good condition so that play can be carried on in a relatively safe environment. Mowing, fertilizing, controlling weeds and other pests, grooming, raking, core aeration, reseeding, sodding, and other techniques all take time. The time is dictated by Mother Nature and kept on a clock that has not changed since the dawn of life on this planet.

Turfgrass - you see, that wonderful natural cushion that athletes of all ages and all skill levels crave, provides the finest and safest playing surface. However, it requires constant care to maintain it in a healthy condition and this care requires sufficient manpower, equipment, and materials to properly do the job.

Now, however, we add the vicious paradox or as Shakespeare said "the unkindest cut of all." At a time when we have the greatest need for improving our programs by providing more fields, and better maintenance to accommodate demand (all of which take increased funding and increased maintenance), we see budget reductions. A dilemma indeed!

The question is - "What can I do, given this woeful scenario, to improve conditions and to somehow stem the tide toward total destruction of our athletic fields, hence our programs?"

Providing for proper maintenance requires a commitment to generate adequate funds for the aforementioned manpower, equipment, and materials; - volunteerism, properly organized and managed, can contribute significantly to offset the demand for increased funding.

A major problem for most Boards of Control and administrators is providing adequate maintenance with ever dwindling funds. The areas of field grooming, mowing, and a variety of other tasks lend themselves well to volunteerism, which is a viable means of meeting basic maintenance requirements without "breaking the bank."

The establishment of such a program is fundamentally based on communication. People don't know about things until

they are told and they can't give you something until you tell them what you want. Such programs, by the way, are not new. They just aren't widely known or utilized.

The following is a brief outline on how to get started with a volunteer program to provide manpower and financial assistance to ailing programs:

I. Clearly define the problem and communicate verbally and in writing to the citizenry.

Develop slide shows or videotapes to illustrate the problem and take groups to visit fields that need "a friend."

II. Clearly define your manpower and monetary deficiencies and do so in an easy to understand format field by field. Be sure that in each instance you list the materials, equipment, and services that the Board of Control can provide and the kinds of assistance you seek.

III. Give your program a name (acronyms work best), for example: ROBIN - Retired Old Buddy Is Needed, or RSVP - Retired Senior Volunteer Program. The program should not be completely aimed at the local cadre of retirees. For example, the local Boy and Girl Scouts, YM or YWCAs, civic groups

continued on page 10

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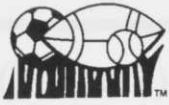
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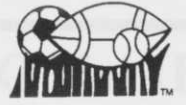
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Sports Turf Happenings



Chapter Events

WELCOME TO STMA'S NEWEST AFFILIATED CHAPTER:

The **Mid-Atlantic Athletic Field Managers Organization (MAFMO Chapter STMA)** has completed all requirements for affiliation and was officially recognized as an affiliated chapter at the STMA Board at the July 11th - 12th, 1997, Board Meeting.

Their next event, a "Dinner and a Game" Meeting will be held at Prince Georges Stadium - Home of the Bowie Baysox on August 22nd.

A Field Day will be held on September 25th at MacGruder High School in Rockville, MD. This will include a "TURF-ACE in Turf" demonstration.

For more information, contact: the Chapter Hotline: (410) 290-5652.

The **Minnesota Chapter** will meet on August 11th at Winter Park, the Minnesota Vikings Training Facility, for a Seminar and Tour.

For more information, contact: Connie Rudolph at (612) 646-1679. NOTE this is a NEW phone number.

The **Midwest Chapter:STMA** will hold its first Seminar on Wheels Tour on August 12th with behind-the-scenes tours of the athletic fields of Northwestern University, Wrigley Field and Soldier Field.

For more information, call: The Chapter Hotline (847) 439-4727.

The **Florida Chapter #1** will again participate in the Florida Turfgrass Conference and Show to be held September 5 - 8 in Tampa. Join Chapter members and representatives from STMA Headquarters at the STMA booth to help spread the word about STMA and STMA's 9th Annual Conference and Exhibition in Florida, January 14 - 18, 1998.

The Florida # 1 Chapter also will meet in Ft. Lauderdale on October 21st. The meeting focus will be Aerifying and Topdressing.

For more information, contact: John Mascaro at (954) 938-7477.

The **Colorado Chapter: STMA** has set its combination Vendor Expo and Meeting for September 18th, 1997, at Jeffco Stadium. This event will include: a presentation on the history of Jefferson County stadiums; a presentation on the STMA Certification program by Certification Committee member, Ross Kurcab; a tour of Jeffco Stadium; product demonstrations and more.

For more information, call the 24-Hour CSTMA Chapter Hotline/FAX: (303) 438-9645.

The **Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association** will participate in The Iowa Turfgrass Field Day on August 14th at the Iowa State University Turf Farm.

The Chapter also will hold a Baseball/Football Workshop from 9:00 AM to Noon on October 9th at Waldorf College in Forest City. Sessions will include general care of the baseball mound and home plate and general care of the football field.

For more information, contact: Lori Westrum at The Turf Office at (515) 232-8222 (phone) or (515) 232-8228 (fax).

The **KAFMO Chapter STMA** is planning a Fall Field Day. Details will be announced soon.

For more information, contact: Dan Douglas, Reading Phillies Baseball Club, at (610) 375-8469, extension 212.

Southern California Chapter:STMA - For information on the Southern California Chapter or pending activities, contact: Chris Bunnell at (619) 432-2421.

STMA Chapters on the Grow:

A budding chapter is beginning to take shape in northern California. The steering committee includes: Sal Genito, UC Davis; Steve Abella, Delta Blue Grass; Sandy Jacobson, UC Davis; Bob Milano, Jr., UC Berkeley; James Moore, B & B Concrete; Dave Patterson, Sierra Pacific Supply; Greg Roberts, Placer Union High; Tim Smith, Brown Sand; and Dennis Suit, San Jose State.

News about the official "Grand Opening" and Charter Commercial Memberships will be announced soon. For information, contact any of the committee members, or the UC Davis Grounds Office at (916) 752-5035.

The **Great Plains Sports Turf Managers Association** is in the process of planning a Fall Workshop. Details will be announced soon.

For more information, contact: Mark Schimming, City of Wichita, at (316) 337-9123.

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Doc's Dugout - An Inning From Our Past & Present (Part II)

by Dr. Kent Kurtz - STMA Historian

The Innovative Contributions to Sports Turf by Tom Mascaro

As busy sports turf managers, we don't always realize that many of the innovations and ideas that we take for granted today were molded by the hands of creative craftsmen, nourished through the persistence of people with vision and energy and encouraged by a private enterprise system that inspires and motivates individuals to think and be creative. Tom Mascaro was one such individual. Tom held all of these virtues, "and then some," and left his fellow sports turf managers with new and challenging turfgrass equipment and an array of tools to diagnose turfgrass and soil problems. Hopefully, he touched a handful of individuals who will be able to grasp his success and pass his work ethic, creativity and enthusiasm on in the form of future innovations, equipment and significant contributions to make the sports turf industry more effective and efficient in the 21st century.

Here are a few of Tom's contributions to the industry:

AERIFIER

In 1946, Tom Mascaro invented and patented the first practical turfgrass cultivating machine which removed one-inch cores without disturbing the playing surface. This device contributed to the acceleration and expansion of the turfgrass industry and was paramount in meeting the rising costs and uncertain labor market. It was called the "aerifier," which was also a name he copyrighted. The aerifier, known as the F. G. Aerifier, was manufactured by Tom's company, Westpoint Products Corporation. This machine utilized spoons that scooped out soil and cultivated beneath the sod. After the machine removed the soil core, a loosened pocket remained to receive water and topdressing material and encouraged gaseous exchange. According to the late Fred Grau (1986), "the aerifier was a godsend. The roots and nutrients went deeper, grass seedlings growing in aerification holes resisted traffic abuse, and athletic fields were softer and safer." Tom went on to design and produce a self-propelled aerifier known as the G.L. for golf greens in 1949, and in 1955 designed a 6-foot wide aerifier for athletic fields and golf course fairways.

VERTICUT & VERTI-GROOVE

In 1952, Tom designed the first popular "Verticut" to remove thatch from golf greens. This concept improved the golfers' putting surface as well as the health of the greens. A year later, Tom introduced the triplex, gang verticut for large areas like football fields. In 1970, he designed a riding triplex greens mower with the first interchangeable heads for a tee mower, verticut reels, and a vibrating spiker. In 1980, Tom invented a machine called the "Turf-Tec Verti-groove" that removes a slice of the soil profile on the field 1/2-inch

wide and 6-inches deep in a continuous step. It was first used at the Orange Bowl to remove soil layers and improve the drainage of the field. It included an attachment to close the top of the groove for minimal surface damage.

And Now the Rest of the Story

Although Tom was best known for these three pieces of equipment, he was also instrumental in several lesser known innovations some of which are briefly discussed below:

CrabErad - was introduced as the first acceptable control for crabgrass. It consisted of DSMA, (disodium methyl arsenate), and was a post-emergence control for weedy areas not treated with a pre-emergence herbicide. It was widely used in the 1950's through the 1970's.

Grass-Cel Paver - is a high impact plastic interchangeable paver with cells for grass to grow in and is placed in high traffic areas such as walkways, ends of golf cart paths and other heavily trodden areas. (1979)

Battery-powered mower - In 1959, Tom redesigned an Atco mower from England into a two-speed battery powered mower. He designed into the mower a system to store enough energy to transport and mow from three to four greens. The copyright name, "West Point Lectro."

Diagnostic Turfgrass Instruments - In 1986, he joined his son, John, in a new company known as Turf-Tec International and designed instruments for sports turf managers and golf course superintendents. The instruments are devised to obtain factual information in order to make very important decisions regarding the soil and turf on athletic fields. Some of the most popular instruments include the following: Field moisture sensor, field thermometer, penetrometer, soil profile sampler, field pH meter, field infiltrometer, nitrate/nitrogen tissue test kit, soil porosity spot test and soil profile preservers. All of these instruments are marketed by Turf-Tec International which is still run by John Mascaro, Tom's son.

Tom will be sorely missed in the sports turf industry but he will always be remembered by the field managers who aerify and/or verticut their turf to restore and invigorate the grass on their facilities. Tom was a fine gentleman, friend, colleague, innovator, and a man with a vision to make the job and life of the ordinary grounds person a little easier and a little better. He wanted everyone to have an aesthetically pleasing sports field and one that was stable and safe for the participants. Tom will live on in the minds of those he touched and his legacy will continue for years to come.

STM

Call For Nominations

Your nominating committee is seeking individuals willing to serve STMA as board members in the following categories: Category II - Four-year colleges and universities sports turf facility manager; Category IV - Parks and recreational sports turf facilities; and Category V - Commercial.

If you feel a strong commitment to STMA and would like to get involved, contact Nominating Committee Chair, Greg Petry. If you would like to recommend someone, contact them and make sure they are willing to serve before contacting Greg.

STMA has a WORKING Board. The Board meets four times a year: once in conjunction with the annual Conference, then once in March, July and November. The 1-1/2-day meetings are usually held on Friday afternoons and all day Saturday.

In addition, board members are asked to serve on one or more committees, provide input to other committees, review and vote on key issues affecting the direction of STMA and be responsive to the needs of the membership.

As with most national and international associations, the Nominating Committee traditionally selects officer nominees from among those who have previously served as Board members and are thus familiar with the administrative and financial functions of the Association.

As well as nominations, any questions or requests for further information may be directed to committee chair, Greg Petry, Waukegan Park District, 2000 Belvidere, Waukegan, IL 60085 phone (847) 360-4721 or fax (847) 244-8270.

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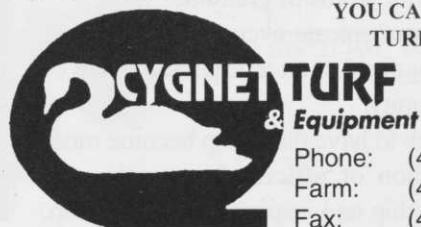
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Recruiting & Coordinating Volunteer Efforts*

continued from page 5

Kiwanis, Jaycees, Lions, Elks, American Legion, etc., can be of great assistance through contribution/solicitation of funds and/or manpower. An acronym for the scouts might be SCATTR Scouts Come Again To The Rescue.

IV. Development of group leaders - Provide hands-on training programs particularly for group leaders.

V. Be sure to get "Moms" involved. There is no stronger force on earth than a mother's desire to provide for her children. PTAs and other parents groups and women's auxiliaries of various organizations provide a powerful source of assistance and leadership in all such endeavors.

VI. Start with just one field. Some refer to it as the "Adopt a Field" Program or other catch phrases. Be sure that you know exactly what kind of assistance you need. Work out the timing involved and assign clear responsibilities and the aforementioned training to group leaders.

VII. Develop a short contract showing some minimal formalization of the agreement to help and have a "save/harmless" clause in it to protect the Board of Control in the event of accident or injury. Be sure signees have their own insurance coverage and are willing to assume certain risks.

VIII. Widely publicize early successes and praise the volunteer efforts with pictures of improvements and estimates of savings to the community. Refer to individuals and organizations by name.

IX. Give all volunteers, both individuals and groups, distinguished status within the community by providing identification cards that give them "free" access to all games, concerts, or special events for which one otherwise would have to pay admission.

X. After the program is in "high gear" so to speak, get donations and volunteer assistance to provide an annual dinner for all volunteers. As a special feature of the event give awards for various categories, i.e. most hours logged by an individual, largest single financial contribution, most innovative idea introduced, field most dramatically improved (use before and after pictures, etc.) and other kinds of incentives to encourage increased participation and a sense of satisfaction and belonging to those actively engaged in the program. Be sure all community dignitaries are present and offer words of gratitude.

XI. Publicize and communicate everything to the end that the program is recognized as an indispensable part of the fabric of the community.

XII. After a time, seek to have the group become more self-sustaining by election of officers from within the group to provide leadership and inspiration to the group,

with community officials acting as resource people as opposed to occupying leadership roles.

To reiterate a point, remember that individuals and groups can only give what they know you need. To accomplish this, you must "reach out" to them. We live in the most dynamic country in the world and one which repeatedly gives and gives to help each other and to provide relief around the world in times of crisis.

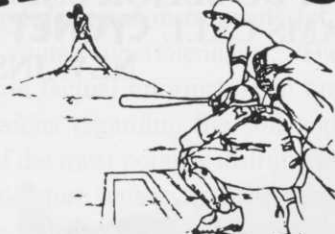
We have a crisis in America. Our athletic fields are not sufficient in numbers or in quality to support the programs and expectations of our citizens. We must do something about it. Volunteerism can provide significant relief to the "public purse." Perhaps it's time you tried it.

We sincerely hope that the thoughts and ideas offered herein will be of some assistance.

**(Reprint of the handout supplied by Dr. Richard Caton in conjunction with his presentation at the 8th Annual STMA Conference & Exhibition in Colorado Springs, January, 1997.)*

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Expanded STMA Awards & Bigger and Better Scholarships

Thanks to the hard work of STMA's Awards and Scholarship Committee, the actions of your STMA Board, and your continued support of the Silent Auction and Raffle, our 1997-1998 Scholarship programs will be both "bigger" and "better" than ever before. And – the Committee and Board have made some additions to the Awards program as well.

Starting with this 1997-1998 year, four major awards will be grouped under the "Founders Awards" designation. These Awards will be made to individuals who are nomi-

nated for them, meet the criteria for the appropriate award, and are selected as the most worthy of the honor by the selection panel.

Two new awards, the Dick Ericson Award and the George Toma Award will come under the Founders Award designation.

The Dick Ericson Award will reflect superior performance by the sports turf manager/management of a professional facility, parks and recreation department fields;

continued on next page

Employment Opportunities

The *Boise (ID) Hawks* have two (2) openings for assistants/interns.

The *Waukegan (IL) Park District* has an opening for a full-time Parks Maintenance Worker III.

The *Vermont Expos* are seeking Turf/Sports Turf Management students to participate in partial Sports Turf Management internships for the 1997 season and future applicants for season long internships for the 1998 season.

For more information on these openings contact STMA Headquarters at (800) 323-3875 OR call the Jobs Hotline at (712) 366-1145.

If you, or anyone you know, has changed jobs, graduated, or received a promotion, or if you know of any available job openings, give us a call here at Headquarters. We'll be more than happy to help get the word out!

WANTED: YOUR INPUT!!

Is there something you'd like to see us cover?

Is there a major project or big event YOU'D like to let people know about?

If so, don't be shy -- call us with your ideas at (800) 323-3875, mail your materials to 1375 Rolling Hills Loop, Council Bluffs, Ia 51503 or FAX to (712) 366-9119.

Q: What do all of these teams have in common?

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Phoenix Cardinals
San Diego Chargers
Los Angeles Dodgers
University of Texas Longhorns
California Angels
San Francisco 49'ers
San Diego State University Aztecs
Arizona State University Sun Devils
San Francisco Giants
San Diego Padres
University of Southern California Trojans
Oakland Raiders

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Awards & Scholarships

continued from page 12

college, etc. (to include all of our membership categories except student and commercial).

The George Toma "Golden Rake" Award will follow the basic guidelines set out by Floyd Perry, reflecting the superior performance of a sports turf crew member in "on the job" activities and in community service (the *and then some* factor).

Two existing Awards: The Harry Gill Award and The Excellence in Research Award will come under the Founders Award category. The Excellence in Research Award will be renamed the Dr. William Daniel Award and the revised criteria will include education and teaching as well as research.

Criteria for The Harry Gill Award will remain the same -- for distinguished service to STMA and the industry -- and this will continue to be the top honor STMA can give one of its own.

Nomination criteria for any of these four Awards is available from Headquarters.

The Field of the Year Awards for softball, football and soccer and the S T M A / B e a m C l a y[®] / s p o r t s T U R F Diamond of the Year Awards for baseball remain the same as in previous years. Information on the criteria for these Awards also is available from Headquarters.

Note that each Field of the Year evaluation is made

on the merits of the field as compared to others with similar circumstances, with due consideration to the resources available for field maintenance. Doing the best with what you have is an important consideration to earning the Field of the Year designation.

Scholarships

From 1997-1998 forward, the \$500 Fred Grau Scholarship will be designated for attendees of two-year colleges and technical schools.

A \$750 STMA Scholarship will be designated for attendees of four year colleges.

A \$1,000 STMA Scholarship will be designated for graduate students.

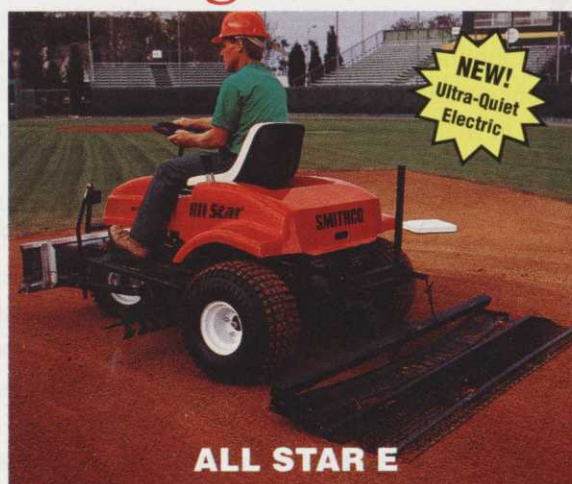
All three of these scholarships will be augmented with up to \$500 for travel expenses to the Conference and a free Conference registration.

Scholarship application forms for 1997-1998 will be sent to schools which have previously requested them. Any school, instructor or student also may request an application form directly from Headquarters.

All completed Award entries and nominations and Scholarship applications must be received by November 30th, 1997, for consideration in the 1997-1998 judging process.

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Headquarters Update

by Steve Trusty, Executive Director

STMA continues to grow. Official paid membership for 1997 is now over 900. New membership applications continue to come. While we all are very encouraged by the continuous increase in membership, we also are concerned that some individuals haven't renewed for 1997. We are in the process of sending questionnaires to those who haven't renewed to find out why. If you, as a member, hear from any past members any reasons for their non-renewal, please let us know so we can at least attempt to address their concerns. We try to be responsive to the membership, but can only deal with what we hear about.

Chapter activities continue to grow, as does the number of chapters. MAFMO (the former Chesapeake Chapter) has again joined the ranks of STMA affiliated Chapters. This is especially gratifying to me. Their return is a good indication that headquarters is again serving the needs of our chapters and members. We know there is always room for improvement, so please let us know what we can do to better provide the services that you want and need.

You should now have your latest issue of the Compendium. We hope you enjoy the improved quality of the printing of the text and pictures. When you have the opportunity, pass along your thanks for the Compendium to any contacts that you might have at John Deere. Not only do they provide the entire cost of producing the Compendium itself, they have provided the biggest share of the funding to develop most of the articles in the Compendium. While STMA is an association of and for Sports Turf Managers, it could not exist without the assistance of the commercial companies that supply many of your needs. If these companies hear your appreciation they are more likely to continue their assistance.


Your conference committee has been hard at work finalizing the schedule

for next January's Conference. It has something that each of you can use in your day-to-day operations. The opportunity to get together with your peers from around the country can itself provide enough information to pay for your trip. All the additional opportunities for growth just make the trip that much more valuable. Full Conference details will soon arrive in the mail. After you've looked over the information, make your commitment to attend. Then pass the information along to colleagues who may not yet know about STMA or request Conference information packets for them.

Your President and I had the opportunity to visit the TPI (Turf Producers International) Conference and Show in Minneapolis while in

town to visit the Minnesota Chapter and make the presentation to Dick Ericson. Several TPI members have been big supporters of STMA for some time. Some opportunities presented themselves for additional mutually beneficial relationships. A special thanks to STMA members Dale Wysocki and Jesse Cuevas for donating items for the TPI silent auction. Their generosity provided a larger presence for STMA and \$350 for TPI's Foundation that funds research. Some of that research could end up helping STMA members in the future. We will continue to help increase the awareness of STMA and seek alliances that will be helpful.


Until the next issue, may your problems be small and your successes huge. *STM*



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How Do You Do...?

The Question -- How Do You Maintain/Repair Soccer Goal Mouths?

Answered by Kevin Vos, Muscatine (IA) Soccer Complex

The Muscatine Soccer Complex consists of eight fields. We try to do a lot of preventive maintenance so as not to have to repair the goal mouths. In the spring, we use the slicing tines on the entire fields in the direction of play. We also use a riding aerifier throughout the season using the solid tines so as not to interrupt play. When the schedule and weather permit, we will use coring tines on the riding aerifier. We then drag the plugs and sweep up the remaining material. We slit-seed or overseed with a combination of pre-germinated Kentucky bluegrass and perennial ryegrass, irrigate and topdress as needed. If needed, we will apply a small rate of fertilizer on the goal mouths.

Because we have a large turf playing surface and overall field layout, we are also able to "move" the entire field after about 15-20 games to spread wear.

Answered by James Boynton, City of Birmingham (AL), Legion Field

Since our soccer season begins in the late fall, after football, the easiest way for us to repair worn goal mouths is to use a pre-germinated ryegrass mix with topdressing. Then we'll add a starter fertilizer, keep it well irrigated, and be ready for play in three to four days.

Luckily our goal mouths fall off the field of play for football, and we're sand-based, so normal maintenance is just the basics we use for the rest of the field.

If for some reason we're playing in the summer, on our Bermudagrass, and damage occurs, we'll cut out the worn areas and replace them with new sod from our own on-site nursery.

Answered by Orval Reed, Parks & Facilities Supervisor, City of Lacey (WA)

We don't have any official city soccer competition on our fields, though we do hold soccer camps and offer recreational soccer. The local Soccer Clubs run their own self-structured leagues, using both our fields and those of the city's schools.

All who use the fields for soccer mark the goal areas with a grouping of "orange cones." The teams are responsible for bringing their own cones and setting them out at the proper distances and spacing.

Prior to settling on the "cone" marking system, the soccer leagues had installed in-ground goal "sleeves." U-shaped pipe sections were fitted together and into these sleeves to form the goal. These piping sections were removed after play and chained to the field's chain link fencing between games. While the pre-set goal area did cause additional field wear, the real problem was the

"attractive nuisance" and potential liability hazard created by the hanging pipes.

We've found the cone method eliminates this attractive nuisance and offers very high flexibility in field layout. Because we've built a good relationship with the field users over the years, and they respect the facilities, they do an excellent job of rotating goal areas to avoid turf damage.

Our basic maintenance needs only extra irrigation, a good aeration program and fertilization to keep the fields in good shape for practices and play.

Answered by Darian Daily, City of Brentwood (TN) Parks & Rec.

Actually, we just finished our season and re-sprigged the goal mouths. Being Parks & Recreation, we don't have the time to seed, someone always wants to get right out on the field for **something**. So, as soon as the season is over, we aerify and sprig with Bermudagrass, add a starter fertilizer and irrigate.

If wear is too excessive, we'll take out the worn areas and re-sod.

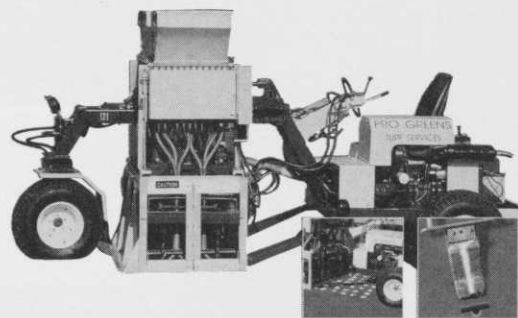
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