

## Awards Banquet Honors Members

The Harry C. Gill Award, STMA Groundskeeper of the Year, was presented to Eugene Mayer, Technical Training and Support Manager for The Scotts Company, Marysville, OH. The Harry C. Gill Award is one of the four Founders Awards, the most prestigious honors issued by STMA. Named for one of the original founders, legendary for his support of the goals and standards on which STMA is based, the Gill Award denotes an individual's long-time service and commitment to STMA and those same goals and standards. Eugene Mayer has given extraordinary service to STMA, filling a vital role on the board as board member, Commercial Vice-President, and just completing a two-year stint as Secretary. In addition, Mr. Mayer coordinated annual Conference details as both Committee Member and Exhibits Chair. His commitment to STMA and guidance of the Association's growth and development have been outstanding.

The Dick Ericson Award, another of the Founders Awards, was named for Mr. Ericson in honor of the significant contributions that he has made to STMA, including serving as its first President in 1981-1982, and his continuing impact in raising the level of professionalism within the industry. This Award is issued to someone who is planning and executing the sports turf management of their facility. The 1997 Dick Ericson Award recipient was Merton Johnson, California State University-Fullerton's Sports Turf Manager. During his 30 year career in sports turf management, Mr. Johnson made significant contributions for the good of the facilities under his management and for the benefit of the industry as a whole.

The George Toma Golden Rake Award was named for another STMA Founder. Besides being one of STMA's Founders, Mr. Toma is also a long-time STMA supporter, who has served, and continues to serve, as a mentor for many of those in the sports turf industry. The recipient of this Award is someone who is on that quest to reach their goals and is demonstrating the "and then some" spirit which is so much a part of Mr. Toma's approach to sports turf management. The recipient of the 1997 George Toma Golden Rake Award was Timothy Burke, Bethel, Connecticut's, Director of Parks and Recreation. Mr. Burke started out in the recreation department as a teen volunteer, moved into a paid position and worked his way up to the directorship. He's been in the position of Director for 18 years. He has not only instigated innovative programs that benefit the city's recreational facilities and outreach efforts, he also continues to be an active volunteer - definitely exhibiting the "and then some" spirit. It's significant that Mr. Burke's nomination for this Award was made on behalf of the Bethel Parks and Recreation Commission and the citizens of the town of Bethel, Connecticut.

The Dr. William H. Daniel Award, (formerly the Excellence in Research Award) is now one of the four Founders Awards, named for the late Dr. Daniel on behalf of his pioneering efforts and long-term support of STMA and the pattern he set for educator involvement in the Association. The Dr. William H. Daniel Award for 1997 was presented to Dr. James Beard for the tremendous impact that he has made in the fields of research and teaching in the sports turf industry.

Recipient of the Outstanding Commercial Affiliate Award for 1997 was The Toro Company, Minneapolis, Minnesota. The Award was presented to The Toro Company in recognition of the company's long-standing and continuing support of the STMA. The company is a long-term advertising supporter of STMA's publications; provides sponsorship which reduces the production and mailing costs of the STMA newsletter, helps support the annual Conference, and continues to promote professionalism within the sports turf industry.

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## STMA Chapter Information

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### Minnesota Chapter:STMA

The Minnesota Chapter is holding their Spring Workshop March 25th. Location to be announced.

New Board Members for the Minnesota Chapter are Paul Griffin, President, Joe Long, President-elect and Lori Gislason, Treasurer.

For information on the Minnesota Chapter and pending activities, contact: Connie Rudolph at (612) 646-1679.

**The Northern California Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association** is in the process of planning its 1998 schedule of events. Details will be announced soon.

For general information about the Nor-Cal STMA Chapter, contact Gail Setka at the UC Davis Grounds Office at (916) 752-5035 or Fax at (916) 752-9631.

### Southern California Chapter:STMA

For information on the Southern California Chapter or pending activities, contact: The Chapter Hotline: (1-888) 578-STMA (toll free in Southern California).

### Chapters On The Grow

**Arizona:** Join the STMAZ as they move towards affiliation with meetings on February 19, March 12 and April 9. These meeting will be held at 6:00 PM at A to Z Equipment Rental & Sales located at 4050 E. Indian School Road in Phoenix. A summer seminar is also in the works to be held in Show Low.

This year's community service project is under way with a renovation of the softball/multi-use field at the Chandler Boy's and Girl's Club with a completion date of April 4. For more information and work times, contact: Kris Kircher, City of Chandler Parks & Recreation Department at (602) 786-2728.

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

**A new Chapter is developing.** The Great Lakes Sports Turf Managers Association will include Ohio and Michigan, and reach into areas of Indiana and Ontario, Canada. The first general meeting will be held at 7:00 PM on March 24th at Sylvania Pacesetter Park, 8801 Sylvania Metamora Road in Sylvania, Ohio.

For information on this event or the newly forming Chapter contact: Joe Zelinko of Athletic Field Services at (800) 897-9714 or Boyd Montgomery of the Sylvania Recreation Corporation at (419) 885-1982.

Plans are moving forward on the formation of a Nevada Chapter of STMA. For information on this developing Chapter, contact: Ibsen Dow, Phone (702) 649-1551.

**Great Plains Sports Turf Managers Association** - The next meeting of the Great Plains STMA will be held March 12 in Wichita from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM. For information on the Great Plains Sports Turf Managers Association or upcoming activities, contact: Mark Schimming, City of Wichita, at (316) 337-9123.

## Awards of Recognition

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The Presidents Award was given to Mike Trigg, Superintendent of Parks for the Waukegan, Illinois, Park District, in acknowledgment of his outstanding efforts on behalf of STMA's Raffle and Auction held each year at the Conference. Funds raised through these efforts have allowed STMA to greatly expand its Scholarship program.

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