

While You Are "Growing"- So Are We

Wow! That's a pretty good word to describe what happened at the 1999 Conference & Exhibition held January 13th-17th in Mesa, Arizona. For those of you who were there, you know what I mean. For those of you that weren't able to attend -- take a look at this!



Seminar on Wheels attendees "raise the roof" at Bank One Ballpark.

Conference attendees numbered OVER 500, many of whom were first time attendees. In addition, we had 175 exhibitor personnel representing 78 different vendor companies. These are record numbers for STMA Conferences. At the Awards Banquet, along with the nine (9) STMA Field of the Year Awards and the three (3) STMA/Beam Clay®/sportsTURF Awards and our Founders Awards, six (6) Scholarships were presented. That's also a record!

Add to that the Golf Outing, three different Seminar on Wheels Tours, a myriad of educational sessions, a special Category I (Professional facility Sports Turf Manager) session, a new Chapter Officers Training session, our Annual Raffle & Live and Silent Auctions - AND - a very special appearance on Tuesday evening (courtesy of Lofts Seed) by Cal Ripken, Jr.....I think you see what I mean.



Cal Ripken, Jr. signed cards, baseballs, etc. at a special reception Tuesday evening.

We had more than 75 new members who joined the STMA with their Conference registrations, several of those were commercial members AND new exhibitors at the Trade Show.




View of the Trade Show area at the Mesa Community Center

Our featured Conference speaker, Dr. Bree Hayes, gave two separate, and very enlightening, presentations. "Building Teams That Work," examined both the chemistry that makes teams function and how teams work for the same goals. Small groups were set up within the attendees to work through the stages of group development and learn the best leadership styles to move those stages to an even higher level. "Don't Sweat The Small Stuff," taught self management through a "prescription" for lifelong self-care. During the give and take of this session, Dr. Hayes set out a specific set of ideas and strategies to manage stress, and still handle your job. Both fit perfectly with Bucky Trotter's presentation at the Friday night banquet.

Sound like a great time? IT WAS! Think you'd like to get in on the fun? Mark your calendars NOW for the 11th Annual STMA Conference & Exhibition, January 12-16, 2000, at the Regal Riverfront Hotel in St. Louis, Missouri. **SEE YOU THERE!**

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President's Message

Old Home Week

by Steve Guise, President

For all of you who missed our National Conference this year in Mesa, you were missed, and you missed a lot! I have had a number of calls from members these past weeks commenting on how they enjoyed the conference. Every year it gets better and your Past-President Mike Schiller gets to play more golf! I am at this moment looking for an indoor golf driving range for Mike to get his fix in St. Louis next year. If all else fails, we may have to drive some balls from under the Arch into the Mississippi.

Spring is upon us, at least for many of us. It's time for fertilizer, aerating, mowing and, of course, our nemesis overuse of your fields in wet conditions. In the South, we are just leaving those conditions behind, but up North, it's just beginning. We are working out new equipment purchased over the winter or trying out that newly renovated reel mower.

I have been busy here, too. I have made my selections for committee chairs for 1999, they are as follows: **Membership Recruitment:** Kurt Nilsson; **Chapter Relations:** Abby McNeal; **Education Co-Chairs:** Bob Campbell & Tony Koski; **Annual Conference & Exhibition:** Chair: Rich Moffitt, Education Co-Chairs: Lynda Wightman & Bob Campbell; Exhibits Chair: Bob Curry; Raffle/Auction: Tom Curran; **Awards & Scholarship:** Tim



Steve Guise

Moore; **Public Relations Co-Chairs:** Vickie Wallace & Bob Tracinski; **Technical Standards:** Mike DePew; **Financial:** Bob Patt; **By Laws/Strategic Long-Range Planning:** Rich Moffitt; **Past-Presidents:** Mike Schiller; **Category I:** Tom Burns; **Certification Co-Chairs:** Dale Getz & Steve Trusty; **Nominating:** Mike Schiller. If anyone is interested in serving on any of these committees, either now, or possibly in the future, give me a call at (714) 704-0403, and we'll talk.

I will close with a special thank to all of you who made "old home week" the highlight of my year. We are all very lucky to be able to work in a career that is so rewarding and has so many charismatic characters within its membership. Keep the faith, summer is around the corner!

Editors Note: I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to ALL our newsletter advertisers for their continued support of this publication. I would especially like to thank those advertisers who, with their color advertisements, allowed us to get so many great pictures of the Conference in this issue.

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Scholarships & Field of the Year Awards

Have you ever smiled so much that your cheeks and jaw started to hurt? Isn't that a great feeling?! There were more than a dozen individuals at this year's Conference & Exhibition in Mesa, Arizona, who experienced that feeling. Those individuals were the recipients of the STMA Field of the Year Awards and Scholarship recipients. This year, the award and scholarship winners were easily recognizable from the time they registered. Each Field of the Year recipient was adorned with a red, white and blue "award winner" ribbon attached to their nametag. Scholarship winners wore yellow "Scholarship" ribbons on their nametags. We are all so proud of them!

This year, in addition to awarding four (4) S T M A Scholarships, we also awarded two (2) new Dr. Jim Watson Scholarships (thanks to funding by The Toro Company). These scholar-



Scholarship recipients: (front row l to r), Sarah K. Martin, Stacy Bonos, STMA President, Steve Guise; (back row l to r), John Sorochan, Chad Follis, Jeff Limburg & Marshall Jennings.

were awarded to Sarah K. Martin, Colorado State University, in the 4-year undergraduate category; and John Sorochan, Michigan State University, in the graduate student category. Stacy Bonos, Rutgers University, was awarded the STMA graduate student scholarship. Chad Follis, University of Missouri & Marshall Jennings, Mississippi State University, were each awarded STMA 4-Year Undergrad scholarships and Jeff Limburg, Michigan State University, was

the recipient of the 2-Year Dr. Fred Grau Scholarship.

Pictured at right, are the Field of the Year winners, beginning in the front row from left to right are: **Debra Kay Robinson**, Director of Parks & Rec., City of Brentwood (TN) (*Municipal/Parks & Rec. Football Field of the Year*); **Rick Izzo**, Director of Field Maintenance, Akron (OH) Aeros (*STMA/Beam Clay®/sportsTURF Professional Diamond of the Year*); **Robert Shumate**, Sports Turf Manager, Georgetown University (DC) (*College Soccer Field of the Year*); **Mark Cuthbertson**, Head Softball Coach, Genoa (OH) High School (*High School Softball Field of the Year*); 2nd row from left to right: **Richard Buelter**, Sports Stadium Manager,

also with Genoa High School; back row from left to right:

Tom Moody, Groundskeeper III, Auraria (CO) Higher Education (*High School Diamond of the Year*); **Dan Reidy**, Sports Complex Director, for the Town of Lantana; **John Davis**, Facility Engineer, **Edwin Lamour**, Assistant Groundskeeper & **Casey Gifford**, Head Groundskeeper, Miami (FL) Dolphins Training Facility (*Professional Football Field of the Year*). Not pictured: **Richard Dahl**, Park Services Manager & **Jim Mueller**, Crew Leader, City of Westminster (CO) (*Municipal/Parks & Rec. Soccer Field of the Year*).



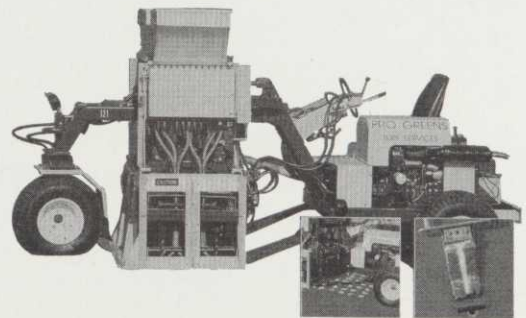
Take the time this year to document your program and submit your field for a Field of the Year Award. Or, get together with your student advisor and apply for one of our Scholarships. We'd love to "get you in the picture" next year!

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Lakewood (CO) Memorial Field/Jeffco Schools (*High School Soccer Field of the Year*); **George Ortiz**, Grounds Supervisor, UC Davis (CA) (*College Softball Field of the Year*); **Anthony Chapman**, Town of Lantana (FL) (*Municipal Diamond of the Year*); **Boyd Montgomery**, Facilities & Maintenance Director, Sylvania (OH) Area Recreation (*Municipal/Parks & Rec. Softball Field of the Year*); **Joe McLearn**,

Your 1999 Officers & Board of Directors

The results of your votes in the election of STMA's 1999 officers and board of directors were announced on January 16th, 1999, at the annual meeting held in conjunction with the 10th Annual Conference and Exhibition in Mesa, Arizona.

Reelected to a second term in the office of President was Stephen Guise, Marina Landscape, Inc., Anaheim, CA. Other officers also reelected to a second term include: President Elect - Rich Moffitt, Saint Louis University, St. Louis, MO; Vice President (Commercial) - Bob Curry, Covermaster, Rexdale, ON (Canada); Secretary - L. Murray Cook, Ballpark Services, LLC, Bowie, MD; and Treasurer - Bob Patt, Civic Center/Stadium Manager, City of Canton, Ohio.

Tom Burns, Texas Ranger, Arlington, TX, was reelected to the Category I Board position, representing the Professional Facility Sports Turf Manager.

Elected to the Board for the first time is Dr. Tony Koski, Colorado State University, representing Category III: other Schools, Research, Extension Agents and Teaching. He replaces Mary Owen, Extension Turf Specialist, University of Massachusetts, who had completed two consecutive terms in that position.

STMA Board members continuing in the second year of their two-year terms include: Bob Campbell, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN - Category II (College & University Facilities); Tim Moore, Maryland National Capital Park & Planning Commission, Wheaton, MD - Category IV (Parks and Recreation Facilities); and Lynda Wightman, Hunter Industries, Inc., San Marcos, CA - Category V (Commercial).

Mike Schiller, Rolling Meadows Park District, Rolling Meadows, IL, remains on the Board in the position of Immediate Past President.

Your Board Meeting Report I

Your Board of Directors met on January 12th, 1999, at the Sheraton Mesa Hotel in Mesa, Arizona, in conjunction with the 10th Annual Conference.

Following are key details of the meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on October 23rd and 24th in St. Louis, Missouri, were unanimously approved.

The Board reviewed preliminary end-of-the-year financial information as submitted jointly by Treasurer, Bob Patt, and Executive Director, Steve Trusty. These reports and the check disbursement details from October through December were unanimously approved.

The Board voted that an additional \$40,000 be moved to the restricted fund, continuing to build the financial stability of your association.

Awards Committee Chair, Tim Moore, reviewed the awards presentation procedures for the annual banquet, combining the prepared on-screen background developed by Moore with the in person presentations. Moore also noted that both Award recipients and scholarship recipients would be noted during the entire Conference by ribbons attached to their name tags to increase the recognition factor.

Trusty noted in the Chapter Relations report that the Chapter Officers Training and Idea Exchange Session, chaired by Abby McNeal, had received excellent response and most affiliated and forming chapters would be represented. Trusty also noted the Board of the Arizona group had voted to take the steps needed for affiliation. Those groups in formative stages but not actively

moving toward affiliation were discussed.

Membership Chair Bob Campbell noted combined 1998

continued on page 9

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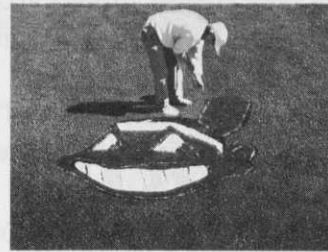
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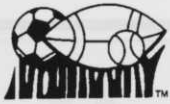
Gary Myers

Walt Disney World
Lake Buena Vista, FL

Henry Olmos

St. Mary's University
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Once again, we have a record number of new members! The listings continue on page 9



Sports Turf Happenings



Chapter Events

Congratulations to STMA's FOUR Newly Affiliated Chapters: The Indiana Chapter Sports Turf Managers Association, the North Texas Sports Turf Managers Association, the Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association, and the Tennessee Valley Sports Turf Managers Association.

Indiana Chapter: STMA

A meeting will be held on February 25th at 1:30 P.M. to appoint committee chairs and develop the program. Location TBA. For information on the Indiana Chapter or pending activities, contact: Terry Updike, B & B Fertilizer, at (219) 356-8424 or Pat Hickner at (800) 672-4273.

The North Texas Sports Turf Managers Association

For information on the North Texas Chapter or pending activities, contact: Rene Asprion, Diamond Pro, at (800) 228-2987 or Tom Welch, CSM, Central Garden and Pet, at (800) 788-9581.

Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association

For information on the Wisconsin Chapter or pending events, contact: Rich Riggs, R. H. Rettler & Associates, Inc. at (715) 341-2633.

Tennessee Valley Sports Turf Managers Association

A Spring Workshop is in the planning stages. For information on this event or the Chapter, contact: Tom McAfee, Nashville Sounds, at 615/242-4371 or Bill Marbet, Southern Athletic Fields, Inc., at 931/380-0023.

Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization (KAFMO Chapter STMA)

On February 19, 1999, KAFMO/STMA will sponsor an Athletic Field Conference in Grantville, PA, featuring seminars and vendor displays. Presentation topics will include: drainage, liability, sprayer calibration, low budget turf care, innovative establishment systems, and more.

On March 23, 1999, KAFMO/STMA is co-sponsoring the Northwestern Pennsylvania Athletic Field, Turf and Ornamental Conference in Meadville, PA. Contact Jeff Fowler at 814/437-7607 for details on this event

For information on these events or the KAFMO Chapter STMA, contact: Dan Douglas, Reading Phillies Baseball Club, at (610) 375-8469, extension 212.

The Great Lakes Sports Turf Managers Association (GLSTMA)

GLSTMA will have an exhibit booth at the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association Show, February 20 - 24, at the Columbus Convention Center.

The Chapter also has two events in the planning stages: one an Athletic Field Day and Workshop with the

site and date yet to be determined; the other a Workshop tentatively planned with the Cleveland Browns.

The Web Page is launched. Check it out at: [HYPERLINK http://members.tripod.com/~glstma](http://members.tripod.com/~glstma).

For information on the GLSTMA Chapter, the website, or upcoming events, contact: Joe Zelinko at (800) 897-9714 or Boyd Montgomery at (419) 885-1982.

The Michigan Sports Turf Managers Association

MiSTMA meetings for February and March are in the works. An April Seminar with Floyd Perry on Baseball and Softball Field Care also is in the planning process.

For information on these events or the Chapter, contact: Rick Jurries, West Ottawa Public Schools, at (616)395-2364.

Minnesota Chapter:STMA

The Minnesota Sports Turf Managers Association is planning a March Workshop at the newly expanded Toro headquarters in Bloomington, MN. More details will be announced soon.

For information on this event or the Minnesota Chapter, contact: Connie Rudolph at (651) 646-1679.

Florida Chapter #1: STMA

The Florida Chapter will participate in the South Florida Expo - IFAS that will be held in Fort Lauderdale in March. Also planned is an April 20th meeting at Palm Beach Gardens with the focus on construction. For information on these events, the Florida Chapter or other pending activities, contact: John Mascaro at (954) 341-3115.

The Mid-Atlantic Field Managers Organization (MAFMO Chapter STMA)

MAFMO is in the process of planning a two day irrigation training and installation seminar for this spring with date and site to be announced.

For information on this seminar, the MAFMO Chapter or other pending activities, contact the Hotline: (410) 290-5652.

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continued from page 7

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Falcon Stadium
USAF Academy, CO

Dave Wiczorek
Ashland Parks & Rec.
Ashland, OR

Your Board Meeting Report I

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and 1999 membership is over 1400. The cut off date for 1999 members to be listed in the 1999 Roster will be March 31st. The procedures for reminder statements and for Board contact with unrenewed members were discussed.

Nominations Chair, Mike Schiller, noted that provisions were made for attendees not previously voting to do so at the Conference registration table. The final accounting of votes would be made just prior to the annual meeting on Saturday, January 16th, and the election results announced at that meeting.

The Board approved the Certification Committee's recommendation for the designation for a certified individual -

Certified Sports Field Manager.

Formal recognition of the chapters who had supplied all the paperwork necessary for affiliation was voted on and unanimously approved. (See page 8 for announcement of these newly affiliated Chapters.)

The Board voted to establish a Long-Range Strategic Planning Committee, chaired by president elect Rich Moffitt, in acknowledgement of STMA's continuing growth. Questions? Comments? Great Ideas? Member input is always welcome. Please contact Headquarters or any of your Board members. (They are all listed on pages 2 and 5 of this newsletter.)

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1200A

Bunker & Field Rake

Born: John Deere Horicon Works, Horicon, WI
Weight: 525 lbs.
Position: Infield skin, warning track

Career highlights

- Can carry front-, mid-, and rear-mounted implements simultaneously
- High-torque, 10-hp engine links to efficient mechanical transmission
- Hydraulic control of rear-mounted field finisher



Catch this!

The muffler and cowling design delivers only 10 dBs!

Pros who have these cards in their collection know the value of having John Deere ballfield maintenance equipment on their fields. It's a solid lineup: the Turf Gator utility vehicle with its whisper-quiet operation; the superior cut of the 2653 and 2653A utility mowers; the versatile 1200A Bunker and Field Rake; the dependable 1800 Utility Vehicle; and the straight-striping 220A and

cards.



1800
 Born: John Deere Horicon Works, Horicon, WI
 Weight: 1,141 lbs. (without sprayer)
 Position: All fields

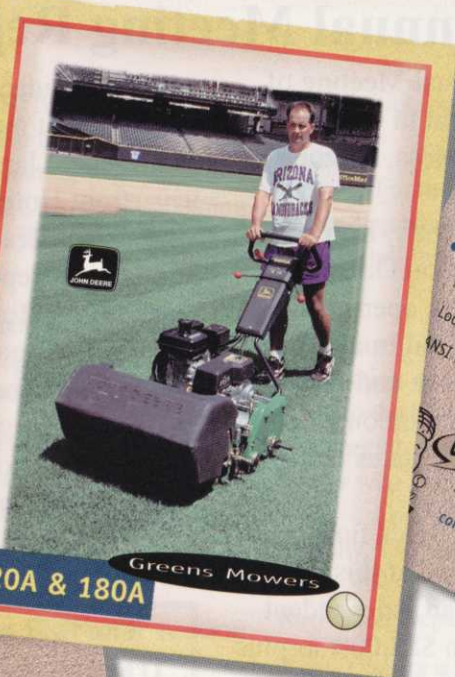
- Career highlights**
- Durable traction unit provides high productivity, low center of gravity
 - Four-wheel construction and large-diameter tires provide a comfortable ride
 - Large, open operator station with two-passenger bench seat.



The 1800 has a 2,000 pound maximum payload.

Utility Vehicle

220A & 180A
 Greens Mowers



220A & 180A

Born: John Deere Horicon Works, Horicon, WI
 Weight: 219 lbs.
 Position: Infield grass

Career highlights

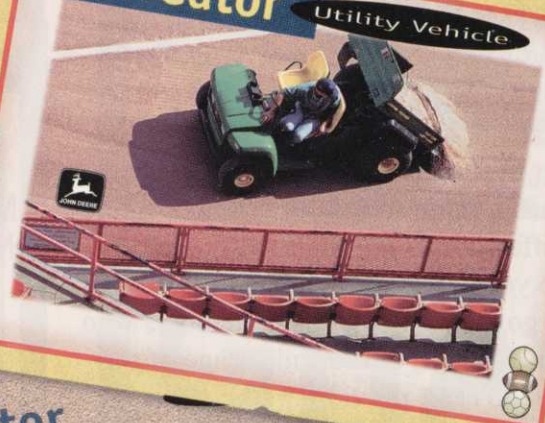
- Both deliver a quality cut and dramatic striping to infields
- External differential drive splits power to both traction rolls for exceptional straight-line tracking.
- Loop-style handlebars with operator-presence system meet ANSI B71.4-1990 standards



220A and 180A have a high degree of commonality in parts and features.

Turf Gator

Utility Vehicle



Turf Gator

Born: John Deere Factory, Welland, Ontario
 Weight: 834 lbs.
 Position: Utility player

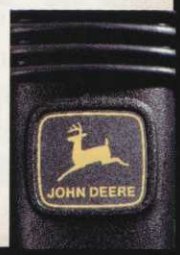
Career highlights

- Has a hefty 900-pound load capacity
- Golf-car style transmission makes for easier and quieter operation
- Available a variety of attachments, including med-bed and power lift



The Turf Gator has a psi of only 5.6

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Your Annual Meeting Report

President Steve Guise called the Annual Meeting of the Sports Turf Managers Association to order at 12:25 PM on January 16, 1999, in Mesa, Arizona. Key details of that meeting follow.

Board Member and Membership Chair, Bob Campbell, reported that 1998 membership on October 1, 1998 (when membership for 1999 officially opened) was 1254 as compared with 975 at the same point in 1997. Combined 1998 and 1999 membership at the end of December was reaching 1500. An information outreach to key non-member extension personnel in all states has produced positive response.

Treasurer Bob Patt reported on STMA's financial status. He noted these figures are unaudited at this time but will be certified in the near future by an independent auditing firm. STMA ended 1998 with an \$88,000 surplus of income over expenses. That's \$63,000 higher than the projections at the beginning of the year. This surplus is based on a total income of \$458,000 and total expenses of \$370,000. Annual dues collections were \$16,000 higher than the initial budgeted projections. STMA's cash in the bank increased by \$118,000, for a total at year's end of \$332,000. Note -the majority of the Conference expenses have yet to be paid. STMA's total equity increased by \$93,376, giving STMA an equity balance of \$147,931 at the end of 1998.

Patt noted, "The credit of course goes to you, the members who support this organization by paying dues, attending this conference, supporting your chapters and going back to your different parts of the country and spreading the word to your peers about what STMA has to offer. Special thanks go to our commercial members who have lent their financial support to the wide range of services and programs that STMA provides."

Board Member and Awards and Scholarship Chair Tim Moore reported on the record number of applicants for scholarships and entries for the Field of the Year Awards, thanked The Toro Company for establishing the Dr. James Watson Scholarships, and congratulated scholarship and award recipients.

Trusty reported the Chapter Officers Training and Exchange Session was a great success. He thanked the 1998 and 1999 Chapter Sponsors. The four newly affiliated Chapters were announced and presented with their gavels. (See page 8.)

Past President and Nominations Chair, Mike Schiller, presented the results of the 1999 election. (See page 5.)

President-Elect Rich Moffitt invited everyone to "Meet me in St. Louis" for the 2000 Conference, January 12 - 16, 2000 at the Regal Riverfront Hotel.

Bob Tracinski, Secretary of the Evergreen Foundation, reported on this green industry outreach to help foster a national greenway system.

The Board also meet briefly at 4:30 PM on January 16th for a post-Conference debriefing and idea exchange session.

The next Board meeting will be held March 12 -13, 1999, in San Diego, CA.

The first ever STMA Chapter Officers Training and Exchange Session took place on January 12th, with representatives of the majority of affiliated and forming chapters joining in the action. If you're a Chapter leader and missed out on it, please contact Headquarters for information.

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STMA Member

Chapter Events

continued from page 8

The Mid-South Chapter STMA

A spring joint meeting between the Mid-South Chapter and the new TVSTMA Chapter is in the planning stages.

For information on the Mid-South Chapter or upcoming events, contact: Jim Calhoun at (901) 755-1305 or Robert Bodi at (901) 383-2414.

The Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association

For information on the Colorado Chapter or upcoming activities, call the 24-Hour CSTMA Chapter Hotline: (303) 438-9645.

The Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association

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).

Midwest Chapter: STMA

For information on the Midwest Chapter or pending activities, call: The Chapter Hotline (847) 622-3517.

The Northern California Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association

For information on the Nor-Cal STMA Chapter or pending activities, contact: Sal Genito, UC Davis, at (530)752-1691.

Southern California Chapter:STMA

For more 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 - Thanks to those members of the Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona who helped with the Conference, especially to the hosts of the seminar on wheels and Category I visits, and special thanks to Grant Trenbeath, Bill Murphy and Mike Varner who filled double and triple slots.

For information on upcoming events, contact: Bill Murphy, City of Scottsdale Parks & Recreation Department, at (602) 994-7954, or Kris Kircher, City of Chandler Parks & Recreation Department at (602) 786-2728.

A new Chapter is taking shape in the **Kansas City Missouri - Kansas area**. A meeting is being planned for March 17th. For more information contact: Trevor Vance at 816/504-4271; John Cundiff at 816/525-7600; Bill Tritt at 816/941-4424; Jody Gill at 913/681-4121; Gary Custis at 816/468-6215; or Jay Sutton at 816/795-8873.

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Headquarters Report

by Steve Trusty, Executive Director

Another Conference is history and your headquarters is in the process of recording all the on-site transactions and reviewing bills from suppliers. Preliminary figures indicate that expenses were on target and income may be running ahead, particularly in some areas. No matter what the financial outcome, from what we heard, everyone who attended felt that the 1999 Conference and Exhibition was a huge success. We had a record number of attendees, record number of exhibitors, excellent educational sessions and ample opportunities to network. Those who were able to arrive on Tuesday and take advantage of the special Lofts Seed reception were treated to an outstanding evening with Cal Ripken, Jr. What a great representative for Baseball! If you missed this year's Conference, you missed a great one. Make plans now so you are not left out next year in St. Louis.

It takes many volunteers and their efforts to make a conference a success. Special thanks are due Char Schiller, Ruth Ann Mayer, Pam Saul, Alice Ward, Mary Indyk and MJ Calvert for all their help in the office and at the Registration desk. Thanks to Coleman Ward, Eugene Mayer and Henry Indyk for their "and then some" efforts throughout the Conference. Thanks to Abby McNeal for all her planning in the Chapter Officers Training Session. Thanks to Tom Curran and his committee for the successful Live and Silent Auctions. Thanks to Tom Burns and Paul Zwaska for all their work on the Category I meeting. While they took a little heat from some people for having a closed session, it was very successful for a one-time experiment. All members of STMA will be seeing the benefits of this program and increased participation by Category I members in various ways for many years to come.

One of the most important aspects of an STMA Conference are the educa-

tional sessions. Thanks to Mary Owen and her committee for coming up with such a top-notch program.

We truly had a great time in Mesa. It is fun to work with individuals who enjoy themselves and are willing to share so much.


I don't like BAD NEWS any more than anyone else, but I thought you should know that Jaci Pettie, our Office Coordinator, has had to take a leave of absence for an undetermined length of time. Her oldest son (17) suffered a gunshot wound January 16th. The Council Bluffs police call it a "senseless shooting". Josh was returning a pager that had been left at a friend's house. Upon meeting the 19 year-old pager owner, some words were exchanged; the 19 year-old pulled out a gun and shot Josh once in

the neck. The 19 year-old has been charged with attempted murder. The bullet went through the neck, voice box, spine and lodged in the shoulder. Initial prognosis was that if Josh lived, he would be paralyzed from the neck down. The good news is that he is improving, he will have a voice and he is beginning to have movement in his arms. Prayers for miracles and for Jaci and her family are welcome.

Membership renewals are coming in very strong. If your '99 dues are not yet paid, please get them in ASAP to assure your place in the new Membership Roster.

Until next issue, may your challenges be no greater than you can handle.






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Members on the Move

Heather Nabozny, former Head Groundskeeper with the West Michigan Whitecaps, is the new Head Groundskeeper for the Detroit Tigers. Heather is the FIRST female groundskeeper for a major league baseball team. You can reach her at (313) 962-4000. WAY TO GO HEATHER!

Bucky Trotter has been promoted to Assistant Athletic Director for the University of South Carolina. Phone, fax and address for Bucky remain the same. CONGRATULATIONS BUCKY!

Employment Opportunities

The **San Francisco Giants** are looking for a Head Groundskeeper for their new ballpark scheduled to open in the year 2000. Send resume to: San Francisco Giants, 3 Com Park, San Francisco, CA 94124, attn: Stadium Operations.

The **Columbus Clippers** Baseball team, is looking for an Assistant Grounds Manager. Please contact: Eugene Mayer, 13203 Watkins Rd., Marysville, OH 43040. Or phone him at (937) 644-1905.

The **Columbus Crew** Soccer team is seeking a Head Grounds Manager. Resumes can be sent to: Mark McCullers, Columbus Crew, 77 E. Nationwide Blvd., Columbus, OH 43215.

The **University of Southern California** is looking for an Athletic Field Supervisor. Please send cover letter with salary requirements and resume to: USC Employment Office, 3535 S. Figueroa St., Los Angeles, CA 90089-1260, Attn: M. Nunez, Ref.# 07801.

The **Sylvania Recreation Corporation** has positions open for: Grounds Supervisor, Full-time Maintenance Dept. & Part-time Seasonal Maintenance Crew. Send resume or application to: Sylvania Recreation, Boyd Montgomery, 8801 Sylvania Metamora Rd., Sylvania, OH 43560.

The **Wichita Wranglers** are looking for applicants to fill the following positions: Head Groundskeeper & Assistant Groundskeeper. Resumes for these positions can be sent to Lance Deckinger or Kevin Grimsley at 300 S. Sycamore, Wichita, KS 67213.

The **West Michigan Whitecaps** are looking for a Head Groundskeeper. Please send resume to: Human Resources, W. Michigan Whitecaps, PO Box 428, Comstock Park, MI 49321.

The **City of Arlington** is seeking a Senior Landscape Technician. For more information on this position, contact: Kathy Cassmeyer, Softball Programs Manager, (817) 459-5483.

The **Cocoa Expo Sports Center** has a position open for a Grounds Superintendent. Send resume and references to: Director of Athletics, Cocoa Expo Sports Center, 500 Friday Rd., Cocoa, FL 32926.

The **Indianapolis Indians** are seeking a Grounds Department Trainee. Send resume, cover letter and references to: Mike Boekholder, Head Groundskeeper, Victory Field, 501 W. Maryland St., Indianapolis, IN 46225.

The **Iowa Cubs** have an Assistant Groundskeeper Internship Position open. Send resume to the Iowa Cubs, 350 SW 1st St., Des Moines, IA 50309, or phone Luke Yoder at (515) 243-6111.

Ballpark Services, LLC is currently hiring Entry Level Sports Turf Managers for several facilities throughout the U.S. For information, contact: Murray Cook at (301) 805-7785; e-mail him at: murraycooksturf@worldnet.att.net; or page him at (800) 778-8073.

For more information on these listings - call

the Jobs Hotline at (712) 366-1145 or STMA Headquarters at (800) 323-3875.

*If you, or someone you know has changed positions, or if you have or know of a job opportunity, call us at Headquarters.
We'll be happy to help you get the word out.*

Doc's Dugout - An Inning from our Past & Present

by Dr. Kent Kurtz, STMA Historian

Our Heritage is the Key to our Future

The success of the recent STMA Conference & Exhibition is due to you - the members and the new faces that came for the very first time. It was indeed enlightening to see so many attendees and high caliber people in Mesa. It was a wonderful mix with the "old timers" and the "newcomers" and those who have been loyal supporters from earlier days mingling together all sharing knowledge, trade secrets and enjoying each others company and fellowship. This is exactly what Harry Gill had in mind when he conceived the idea of an association like STMA. The officers, board members, Trusty's and attendees made Mesa the best conference, show and annual meeting ever.

As your historian, I need your help in securing items from our past so we can carry on the legacy toward our future. Things of value would be old newspaper clippings, photographs or slides, material written or published, stories or quotes by past or deceased members, memorabilia, small hand tools, etc. Recently I talked with Fred Grau, Jr., son of Dr. Fred Grau, and he will allow me to come to Maryland next summer to look through his father's photos and material and make copies before they are sent to the University of Nebraska where these items will be permanently displayed. These are the kinds of things that STMA needs to piece together our history. *(Items can be sent to me at 1400 Carmelita Place, Arcadia, CA 91006, or call me at (626) 355-2209.)*

I would like to personally congratulate John Souter, our good friend from Braco, Scotland, who was presented the Harry Gill Memorial Award at the Awards Banquet in Mesa. This is the highest honor that STMA can bestow on an individual and John is very deserving of this recognition.

The Harry Gill Award is indeed

a spectacle to see. It was designed by Harry and the idea was taken to a friend in Milwaukee who built the trophy. It shows a horse and rider mounted on an old catchers mask. The horse's tail consists of wire brushes from an old motor and his head is an

old porcelain faucet. The rider is a groundskeeper armed with the tools of his trade: a rake of hope; a hose of determination; a shovel of passion; a hoe of dedication; and a smile of spirited uncertainty as he rides off into the unknown atop a horse named desire.

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Sports Field Construction: What Do You Do When The Contractor Leaves

By Hanson, Manager of Stadium Operations, Jeffco Schools

New construction, whether it is a new facility or a field renovation, is an exciting and challenging time in your professional career. It allows you, as a sports turf manager, to truly display your passion for your profession by exercising your expertise and knowledge in a new, positive application. In the general scheme of things, you could labor for years in whatever situation that you hold with little change in your daily routine. New construction usually does not come along very often in your tenure, but it can and should ignite a new excitement within your career. This is a positive experience

to encounter, so when the opportunity presents itself, it is very important to be organized and prepared.

In order to manage your project when the contractor is finished, you need to first be involved in every phase of the planning portion of the project. This guarantees that you will understand just what you possess in your new field/facility. Now is the time to exercise the beliefs and opinions that you have formulated from your experiences as a sports turf manager. Don't be hesitant in asking questions about specific areas of concern.

Regardless of the reputation


of your construction team, never allow the contractor to "hold all the cards." It is of the utmost importance for you to be involved in the design areas of the construction calendar, grading and drainage, irrigation and turfgrass issues. You are now experiencing the first phase of quality control.

Once the contractor is finished, you have two main responsibilities to manage. The first is to document problems and enforce warranty issues. To be in a position of enforcement of warranty issues, a proper contract needs to be drawn up by the appropriate parties. You, as the owner or customer, have the upper hand in the requirements of contract provisions. This can only occur when the owner authors a precise, "tight" contract. It is also the responsibility of the owner to hire reputable consultants, architects and contractors.

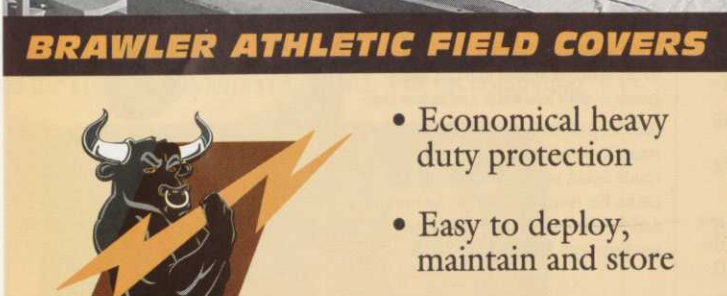
It is also the responsibility of the sports turf manager to take the existing construction project and get it "game-day ready." You should be capable of modifying the new field in your own professional style using your available resources. Exercise your aeration, topdressing, mowing and fertility practices that enable you to modify the soil, increase the density of your turf and toughen the performance of the field for your specific athletic demands.

This information was presented at the 1999 STMA Conference & Exhibition in Mesa, Arizona. For further information contact By at (303) 237-7188.

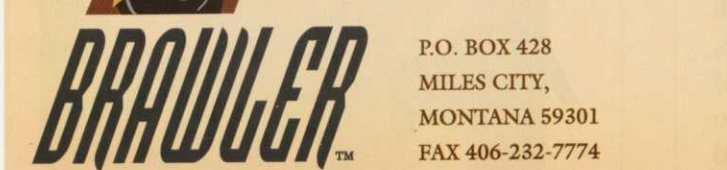
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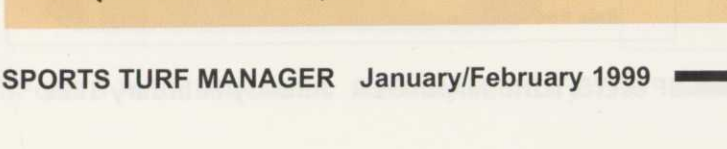
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Founders Awards & Other Achievements

Awards of Special Recognition were issued during STMA's 10th Annual Conference and Exhibition held January 13 to 17, 1999, in Mesa, Arizona.

The recipient of the 1998 Harry C. Gill Memorial Award, one of STMA's four Founders Awards - the association's highest awards, was John Souter (*pictured at right*), turfgrass consultant who heads up his own consultation company based in Braco, Perthshire, Scotland.

John's relentless pursuit for safer and better sports turf has long been apparent in his work. Previously, he was

awarded Honorary Life Membership to STMA. His commitment to STMA and his contributions to furthering the goals and objectives of the Association and its worldwide presence within the green industry have been outstanding.

The recipient of the 1998 Dick Ericson Award, another of the Founders Awards, was Ross Kurcab (*below left with Dick Ericson*), Turf Manager for The Denver Broncos Football Club, based at their practice facility in Englewood, Colorado.

Ross has been a long-time supportive member of both the national STMA and the Colorado Chapter. He serves as an



advisor to many sports turf managers across the nation and is an active, contributing member of STMA's Certification Committee. Through his individual activities, his

demonstrated leadership, and his continuing contributions, Ross Kurcab is positively impacting the sports turf industry.

The recipient of the 1998 Dr. William H. Daniel Award, another of the Founders Awards, was Steve Cockerham (*pictured above right*), Turfgrass Scientist and Superintendent of Agricultural Operations at the University of California, Riverside. Steve has had a tremendous impact in the field of research in the sports turf industry. His interactive approach to research integrates the realities of the multiple challenges faced



by the sports turf manager. This Award recognizes his ongoing contributions to the development of sports turf fields that fit the needs of athletes within the parameters of today's multi-use stadium facilities.

The recipient of the 1998 George Toma Golden Rake Award, another of the Founders Awards, was Don Kelly, Head of the Grounds Crew for the City of Rocky River, Ohio, Recreation Department.

Don has taken care of the fields in the City of Rocky River for the last twelve years, always giving 110 percent and always striving to improve the multiple fields under his care and demonstrating the "and then some" factor by "giving back" to the community. His outstanding

continued on page 19



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Founders Awards & Other Achievements

continued from page 18

dedication and commitment exemplify the standards recognized by this Award. *(Photo unavailable - Don was unable to attend the Conference due to a family illness.)*

Recipient of the Outstanding Commercial Affiliate Award for 1998 was Lofts Seed Inc. The Award was presented in recognition of the company's long-standing and continuing support of STMA. The company is a long-term advertising supporter of STMA's publications; helps support the annual Conference; and continues to promote professionalism within the sports turf industry.

The recipient of the 1998 Presidents Award was Mary Owen, Extension Educator - Turf Specialist with the University of Massachusetts. Ms. Owen is stepping down after fulfilling two terms as STMA Board Member in the Category III position, as Education Committee Chair and as Education Chair of the Conference Committee. This Award was presented, "In grateful recognition of all you have accomplished in furthering the educational level and standards of professionalism for the Sports Turf Managers Association." Ms. Owen will continue as a member of the Conference Education Committee and the Certification Committee.

Dr. James R. Watson *(pictured below)*, associated with The Toro Company since 1952 as a Vice-President, Director of Agronomy and agronomic consultant, was awarded STMA Honorary Life Membership. During his extensive career, Dr. Watson has conducted research on numerous areas of turfgrass management and contributed to several standard texts on turfgrass science and authored more than 400 articles on turfgrass care and management.

Dr. Watson was elected to the STMA Board of Directors in 1988. In 1991, he was awarded the Harry Gill Memorial Award. For his continuing

contributions to the turfgrass industry, and to the Sports Turf Managers Association in particular, STMA is pleased to welcome Dr. Watson as a permanent member of the Association with the Honorary Life Membership.

sportsTURF Magazine recognized Dr. Henry Indyk *(at right with wife, Mary)* for his innumerable contributions to the industry by naming him their 1999 Man of the Year.



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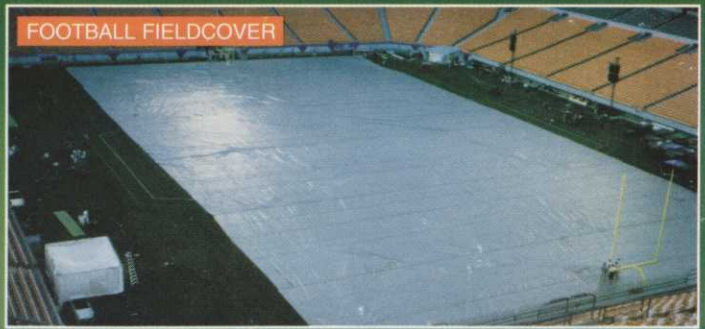
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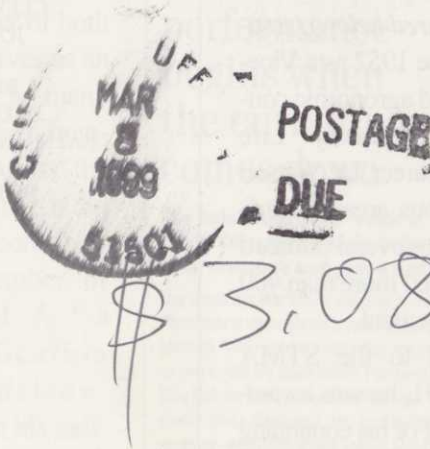
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