

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 indi-

vidual 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

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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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