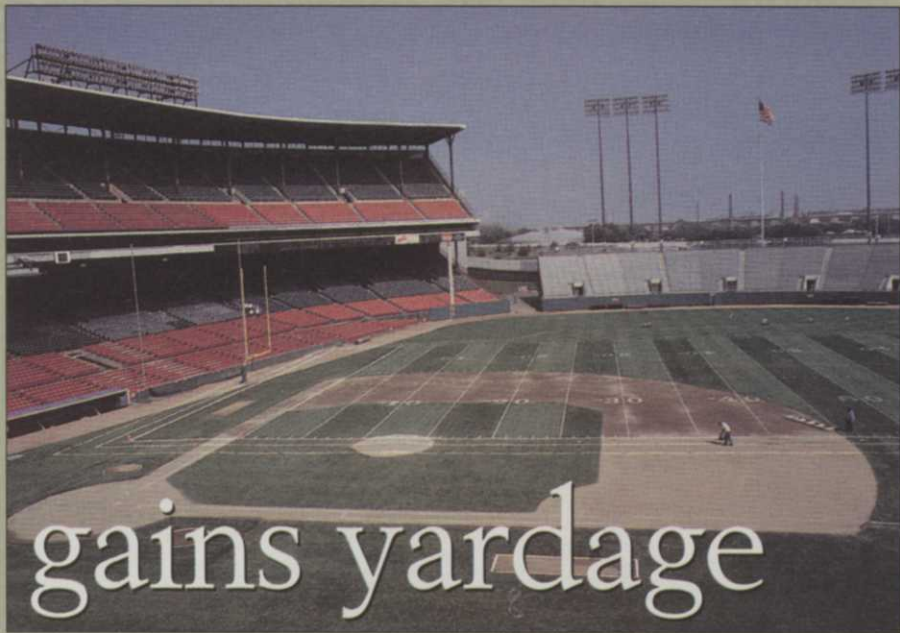


The Sports Turf Managers Association was formed because industry leaders believed sports turf could be improved through the sharing of knowledge and ideas.

STMA gains yardage



COURTESY DAVID MELLOR, MILWAUKEE BREWERS

The mission statement of STMA is: To be the leader in the sports turf industry, to enhance, promote and improve professionalism through excellence in communication, training, research, education and services.

STMA members work to combine the science of growing grass and the art of maintaining both natural and artificial sports turf to produce safe and aesthetically pleasing playing surfaces. STMA represents all segments of the sports turf industry with those involved in management of school, municipal, university, and professional sports facilities among its membership. Members also include educators and researchers, commercial affiliates, landscape contractors and full-time students.

Info for members

STMA holds an annual conference and exhibition in January each year. STMA also provides members with a monthly magazine, a bi-monthly newsletter, a membership roster and resource guide, and an annual compendium of articles written by and for sports turf managers. Sharing information is a strong part of STMA.

Headquarters now serves as a conduit to speed the process of connecting members with each other and to supply information to potential members, facilities in need of assistance, industry-related companies and associations, and the media.

Recognizes best work

To further encourage professionalism at all levels, STMA has an independent "Field of the Year" program for football, soccer and softball fields and joins with Beam Clay and *sportsTURF* magazine in a "Diamond of the Year" program for baseball.



Harry Gill, a co-founder.

STMA made several strategic moves in 1996, establishing: a committee for Category I members (those managing professional sports facilities) headed by Steve Wightman; a Historical Committee headed by Dr. Kent Kurtz and Mark Hodnick; a Past Presidents-Long Range Planning Committee headed by Greg Petry; and a Certification Committee headed by Dr. Henry Indyk. STMA's Certification Program introduction is scheduled for January, 1998.

Sports turf management has made great

The transition: one of the challenges STMA members face, and can perform better through education programs.

strides since 1981 in gaining recognition of the role the field plays in sports from facility owners, athletic directors, field user groups, athletes and the public. Sports turf managers have become increasingly educated and ever more skilled in making the most of available resources. Industry and researchers have introduced new products and techniques to enhance field care. Dedication and commitment, what George Toma calls the "and then some" factor, continue to play a major role.

Still, the education process has just begun both internally, within the green industry, and externally, as sports turf managers face shrinking resources on one hand and increased sports participation and demands for field use on the other.



Co-founder Toma: Super Bowl field manager.

Mike Schiller, STMA President, says, "We're young; we're growing; we're improving and we are making a difference. STMA will continue in promoting better and safer sports turf areas so that every athlete, at every level of play, will have the opportunity to play the game to the best of their abilities."