



Experts on the Field, Partners in the Game.

News Release

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STMA PRESENTS ITS MOST PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS

Named in Honor of Association's Founders, Awards Signify Lifetime Achievement, Respect among Peers

LAWRENCE, Kan. (February 1, 2010) – The Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) held its 21st annual conference at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort and Convention Center., Jan. 12-16, at which its highest honors, the Founders Awards, were presented during the concluding banquet on Fri., Jan. 15. The awards are named after the four founders of STMA: Dick Ericson, Dr. William H. Daniel, George Toma, and Harry Gill, and each award has separate and distinct judging criteria. Those nominated are evaluated confidentially and independently by the STMA Board of Directors, and winners are not notified until their name is announced during the banquet.

[David Rulli](#), from Jeffco Stadium in Lakewood, Colo., received the Dick Ericson award, which is given to a sports turf manager who positively impacts the sports turf industry and exhibits effective team leadership. His nomination referenced his contributions to his chapter, a strong work ethic, and his contributions to STMA through board service.

Founder Dr. William Daniel set the standard for educator and researcher involvement in the STMA, and created a partnership between sports turf managers and educators and researchers. This award recognizes an individual who has made significant contributions to the sports turf industry through his or her research, teaching or extension outreach. [Dr. Anthony Koski](#), Colorado State University was presented this honor in recognition for his substantial

research on turfgrass water usage and irrigation management. He was also cited for his profound influence on the creation and continuing advancement of STMA's certification program, and the many sports turf managers he educated.

The George Toma Golden Rake Award, which acknowledges an individual's strong work ethic and job performance, was presented to [Craig Potts](#) from Texas A&M, College Station, Tex. He is described as an active chapter member, a frequent speaker and presenter, and a mentor to many crew members and students. He is highly respected for his nationally recognized fields, but even more so for his professionalism and humility.

The Harry C. Gill Memorial Award was presented to [Tom Burns](#) from Diamond Pro/TXI. The Gill Award recognizes an individual for their hard work in the sports turf industry and acknowledges their dedication and service to the STMA. Burns was honored for his extraordinary commitment to the profession. He has served this industry for many years in various capacities – as a sports turf manager, a chapter leader, a national board leader, a commercial supporter and a committee volunteer. He has been an ambassador for STMA and is credited for getting his peers to join and become involved in the STMA.

STMA is the not-for-profit, professional association for the men and women who manage sports fields. Since 1981, the association and its dozens of local chapters have been providing education, information and sharing practical knowledge in the art and science of sports field management. Its more than 2,500 members oversee sports fields and facilities at schools, colleges and universities, parks and recreational facilities, and professional sports stadiums.

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If you'd like more information about the STMA Founders Awards or other STMA programs or events, please contact Kim Heck, CEO at 800.323.3875 or e-mail her at kheck@stma.org.