



STMA Founders Awards Criteria

The Dick Ericson Award

The award is to be issued annually to someone who plans and executes the sports turf management of their facility, who effectively leads their team to accomplish their goals in field maintenance, and who positively impacts the sports turf industry.

Nominees must meet the following criteria:

- √ Member of STMA
- √ At least five years of service in a sports field-related position
- √ Job performance and work ethic that consistently meets or exceeds expectations
- √ Management techniques that make the most of existing resources
- √ Efficient and effective personnel management
- √ Constantly improves the management program, introducing creative and innovative ideas to enhance the field management program
- √ Receptive to ideas and creative skills of staff members and other industry professionals
- √ Supportive of and works to increase professionalism within the sports turf industry.

George Toma Golden Rake Award

This award is to be issued annually to someone who is on that quest to reach their goals. The George Toma Golden Rake Awards acknowledges the superior performance of a sports turf member in “on the job” activities and in community service.

Nominees must meet the following criteria:

- √ Member of STMA
- √ At least two years of service in a sports field-related position
- √ Job performance that consistently meets or exceeds expectations
- √ Work ethic that consistently meets or exceeds expectations
- √ Offers ideas and brings creative skills to the department in a professional manner
- √ Assists in additional non-job-related sports events and activities for the community
- √ Is a believer in the “and then some” tradition of work ethic.

Dr. William H. Daniel Award

To honor all that he achieved, the Dr. William H. Daniel Award (formerly the Excellence in Research Award) recognizes an individual who has made significant contributions to the sports turf industry through his or her research, teaching or extension outreach. (Nominees must meet criteria in one or more of the following areas):

Criteria in Research area:

- √ Member of STMA
- √ Conducted research relevant to the sports turf industry
- √ Research enhanced the understanding of the sports turf industry, has practical implications, and was published in a professional journal.

Criteria in Teaching area:

- √ Member of STMA
- √ Developed and/or executed teaching programs relevant to the sports turf industry
- √ Teaching programs enhance the understanding of the sports turf industry, provide technical background and/or practical training, and expose outstanding individuals to the sports turf industry.

Criteria in Extension area:

- √ Member of STMA
- √ Developed and or executed extension programs relevant to the sports turf industry
- √ Extension programs enhance the understanding of the sports turf industry, provide technical background and or practical training, and assist in improving quality of sports turf areas.

Harry Gill Memorial Award

The Harry C. Gill Memorial Award was established to honor an individual for their hard work in the sports turf industry and to acknowledge their dedication to STMA. Harry himself became the first recipient of the Award. Traditionally, nominations for the Gill have been made by STMA members – other than the nominee – to acknowledge an individual for “long-standing service to the STMA”. The award itself is a rather unique piece of art, depicting 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.

Criteria for the award

- √ STMA Membership
- √ Dedication to the improvement of sports turf
- √ Outstanding ability and commitment to the sports turf industry
- √ Professional involvement and service to the STMA on a local, regional and national level
- √ Professional leadership in promoting STMA, its members and the sports turf industry
- √ Contribution of written communications in articles, magazines, manuals, legislation and/or research.