Meredith Wins Toma Award

Kevin Meredith of the National Soccer Hall of Fame received the George Toma Golden Rake Award from the Sports Turf Managers’ Association (STMA), which acknowledges an individual’s strong work ethic and job performance.

The George Toma Golden Rake Award was named for one of STMA’s founders, Mr. George Toma, whose work with the National Football League on Super Bowl field preparation has made him a legend. The recipient of this award is someone who is on that quest to reach his goals and is demonstrating the “and then some” spirit which is so much a part of Mr. Toma’s approach to sports turf management.

Meredith is the Sports Turf Manager at the National Soccer Hall of Fame in Oneonta, NY, a position he has held for the past 14 years. His knowledge, expertise, and dedication have been invaluable in the development of the Hall of Fame. In 2000, he won the STMA Soccer Field of the Year for a municipality. He volunteers for many organizations, including the Oneonta school system and Otsego County as an alcohol and drug abuse counselor and has been a credentialed alcohol counselor for six years.

Meredith founded a local airplane club and the regional Leather Stocking EEA, and was an aerographer (weatherman) in the Navy. He is a member of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and has designed and built a par 3 golf course. He holds a bachelor’s degree from the State University of New York at Oneonta.

Sliwa Selected for USGA Internship

Andrew Sliwa was selected by the USGA to participate in an internship with USGA Northeast Agronomist. Andy is in his senior year at Cornell University studying horticulture with a concentration in turfgrass management under the supervision of Dr. Frank Rossi. Sliwa was selected from a highly competitive field of applicants to be part of this exciting program.

Andy is Captain of the Cornell Golf Team and has been playing the game of golf since the age of three. He has worked at the Turfgrass Research Center at Cornell, as well as the Links at Hiawatha Landing, Card Sound Country Club, and this summer at Westchester Country Club in New York.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

February 1, 2006

2006 Turfgrass Advocacy/NYSSTA’s Lobby Day
Empire State Plaza, Albany NY
Info: NYSSTA (518) 783-1229 or (800) 873-8873

February 27, 2006

Southeast Regional Conference
Holiday Inn Suffern, Suffern NY
Info: NYSSTA (518) 783-1229 or (800) 873-8873

March 6, 2006

Western Regional Conference
Buffalo/ Niagara Marriott, Amherst NY
Info: NYSSTA (518) 783-1229 or (800) 873-8873

March 30, 2006

Adirondack Regional Conference
Lake Placid Resort, Holiday Inn, Lake Placid NY
Info: NYSSTA (518) 783-1229 or (800) 873-8873

Exposure to 2,4-D and chlorpyrifos is also being analyzed in a project that compares average exposures between different subpopulations in the AHS, for example between the two states, between male and female, and between farmers and commercial applicators. Researchers are taking this farm, home and work practice information and developing ways to determine the health implications of the resulting exposures.

Researchers are taking this farm, home and work practice information and developing ways to determine the health implications of the resulting exposures. For example, scientists at the EPA conducted a five day continuous sampling of a group of volunteers in the AHS population in order to gain a detailed understanding of exposure to two pesticides, 2,4-D and chlorpyrifos. Biological samples from volunteer spouses and children were also collected. Exposure to these two pesticides is also being analyzed in a project that compares average exposures between different subpopulations in the AHS, for example between the two states, between male and female, and between farmers and commercial applicators. All of these data will enable a more complete analysis of exposures to these two widely used pesticides and any subsequent health outcomes.

Studies like these both refine exposure information and develop methodologies for future pesticide exposure research. AHS computer models predicting pesticide exposure have already been found to be an effective predictor of exposure in an AHS population. AHS efforts also include comparisons between African-American farmers’ and white farmers’ pesticide use practices in North Carolina, and analyses of the use of protective equipment and application method. Comparison of work practices and attitudes toward risk between the two states are proving to be instructive. All of this research also clearly contributes to improved health and safety education and communication tailored to the farming community.

Information on the Web

The AHS Web site, www.aghealth.org, contains information for enrollees and others in the format of frequently asked questions as well as agricultural health resources for both states and national links. Much of the web site, while geared toward a scientific readership, is accessible to lay persons wanting to read AHS related journal articles, which are all available in abstract or full text format. Watch the web site for the wealth of information expected to be published in the coming years, during AHS’s intensive five-year period (2004-2008) of assessing disease rates and risk factors.

The Agricultural Health Study is supported by the National Cancer Institute (NCI), the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH); the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NCMHD) funds an effort to study cancer and non-cancer disease outcomes among African-American farmers in North Carolina.