Did You Know?

In the spirit of our 10th Anniversary we will be sharing with our members some highlights of the Association’s history.

1992: Conjoint conference brought about by Annette Anderson; involved OGSA, PLCAO, the Sod Producers, GTI, OTRF, and the STA. In the same year, videotapes were marketed through the Independent Study Program at the University of Guelph in a shared agreement.

1993: Produced our strategic plan “Toward 2000” to redefine the future direction of the Association, assess our membership services, and to better fulfill our mission statement. The Association moved its office to the GTI, a building shared by other turf related organizations. This was the dream of past president Bruce Calhoun. 1993 was also the first year scholarships were given by the Association to graduates in the Turf Short Course at Guelph, and we produced member plaques and a membership address book.

1994: Dr. Bob Sheard resigned as Executive Secretary but continued as editor of the Sports Turf Manager, a job he had done since 1993.

1995: HIred Sonia Schnieder as our Executive Secretary. Ended agreement with the U of G on videotapes. President Chris Mark agreed to serve a second term.

1997: HIred Lee Heuther in October as Executive Manager after Sonia’s resignation. Many presentations were made to associations in Ontario and Saskatchewan about sports turf. Word also spread through distributor mailings and the media. Started to produce information of use to the turf manager with the prime beneficiary being the athlete.

Still to come: Unveiling of an Association logo in January 1998 at the AGM. The logo is being designed by students at Conestoga College.

The President’s Message

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an unbelievably enjoyable experience and one which I have had superb and constant support from all Directors and members. It has allowed me the opportunity to grow both personally and professionally. One of my most lasting memories will be all the professional and genuinely nice people I have met in this organization and in our industry. You have all been fantastic, and it has been a pleasure and an honour to serve such a respected organization and to work with so many fine people.

Finally, 1997 was also a special year for one of our longest supplier members, Pickseed, who celebrated their 50th Anniversary. Congratulations on half a century of serving the needs of the turf industry in terms of customer service and research. Pickseed has been one of the biggest supporters of the STA, and we offer them best wishes and continued success in the future.

To all members, I wish a happy and blessed holiday season. May the joy we share and feel during the holidays remain with you throughout the coming year. I hope 1998 is full of health and happiness for all of you.

See you at the Ontario Turfgrass Symposium on January 6-8, 1998. Join us for a social dinner prior to the AGM on January 6 at 7:00 p.m.

Wishing you better, safer sports turf.

—Christopher Mark

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