

Inaugural *Field Day Langley, BC*



Langley Events Centre and Willoughby Community Park

There was certainly a lot of hubbub surrounding the inaugural West Coast Sports Field Training Day hosted by WCTA Past President/STA Director and Manager of Parks Operations for the Township of Langley, Tab Buckner. Judging by the email and phone inquiries received by the Western Canada Turfgrass Association office, a lot of people were pleasantly surprised to learn a summertime event with education and a supplier trade show was being planned.

When the day was done, 106 delegates, 22 vendors, 5 demonstration station exhibitors and 2 world class speakers took part in the Sports Turf Association sanctioned event held August 29 at the Langley Events Centre and Willoughby Community Park in Langley, British Columbia.

This rain or shine indoor/outdoor event was modelled after the STA Field Day, the day-long educational forum and tradeshow held annually in Ontario for 26 years, and also in 2011 and 2013, where efforts to support Atlantic sports turf managers saw the STA deliver additional field days in Moncton, New Brunswick and Halifax, Nova Scotia respectively.

“We were excited to work with Tab Buckner on the first ever West Coast Training Day,” commented Lee Huether, Executive Manger of the STA. “Our partnership with the

WCTA has paved the way for events like this to take place and we’re closer to achieving our goal of supporting sports turf managers from coast to coast.”

The training day was designed for participation by all levels of sports turf management personnel; the formula included education, networking opportunities, a chance to visit suppliers at the outdoor tradeshow, live demonstrations and hands on equipment testing.

“It’s been a long time since we’ve done any sort of field day,” stated WCTA Executive Director Jerry Rousseau, “and while we’ve been involved with a lot of great golf events over the years, we’ve never done something of this scale for our sports turf members.”

“At the end of the day we accomplished our goal of providing a low-cost, high quality education opportunity for our membership,” said Tab Buckner. “We’re calling the day a huge success and really want to thank all our sponsors, tradeshow vendors, speakers and of course everyone who attended for making it possible. I especially want to thank TOL Parks Department staff for getting things done and the Township of Langley itself for allowing this event to be hosted here.”



Kwantlen University Turf Management Instructor Stan Kazymierchuk (L) welcomes speaker Mark Lucas from the University of California



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Tab Buckner gives the signal for groups to move to the next demo station



Tradeshow Vendors

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