

SPORTS TURF

Newsletter

VOLUME 6
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JUNE
1993



...for better, safer Sports Turf

COMING EVENTS

July 18 - July 24, 1993

International Turfgrass Society
7th International Turfgrass Research
Conference

Venue: Breakers Hotel, Palm Beach, Florida
Contact: Dr. George Snyder,
University of Florida,
EREC, P.O. Box 8003,
Bell Glade, FL.
U.S.A. 33430
(407) 996-3062

August 26, 1993

GTI - OTRF Field Day
Venue: Cambridge Research Station
Contact: Pam Charbonneau
Guelph Turfgrass Institute,
328 Victoria Road S.,
Guelph, ON. N1H 6H8

Jan. 5 - Jan. 7, 1994

Ontario Turfgrass Symposium & Trade Show
Venue: University of Guelph
Contact: Mr. Kelly Wilson,
Office of Continuing Education,
University of Guelph, GUELPH, ON.
N1G 2W1
(519) 824-4120, ext 3814
FAX (519) 767-0758

March 5 - March 8, 1994

Canadian Turfgrass Conference
& Trade Show
Venue: Calgary Convention Centre
Contact: Conference - Julie Law
Trade Show - Chuck Desveaux
CGSA
509 - 5580 Explorer Dr.,
MISSISSAUGA, ON. L4W 4Y1
(416) 602-8873 FAX (416) 602-1958

EDITORIAL

Where did we go astray?

The Sixth Annual Sports Turf Association Field Day drew 22 exhibitors to display their products at either the indoor or outdoor venues. Unfortunately only 32 sports turf managers chose to register.

The weather was ideal; warm, sunny and a cool breeze. Was that the reason so few managers registered? The heavy weekend rains which lasted into Monday may have created a backlog of mowing for those in the Metro Toronto area; the area this Field Day was designed to serve.

Our speaker program was carefully selected to provide information we considered of value to our membership. The program was highlighted with an address by Dr. Henry Indyk, an outstanding lecturer on turf management from Turfcon of Harsham, PA. He was followed by three Ontario turf managers speaking on their experiences with maintenance problems for sand based fields, baseball infields and bowling greens. Certainly a wide range of subject matter which should have something of interest for everyone from the person mowing the grass to the supervisor developing the budget.

But few people seemed interested. Do the administrators responsible for sports field maintenance see no value in the education of their staff? A pending litigation regarding a sports field in Ontario could leave turf managers scrambling

for insurance to cover their errors if the courts rule against the field maintenance staff.

I can not believe our program is at fault or that the administrators do not realize the benefit of more training for their staff.

Is it the cost? The lunch alone was worth half the admission - there was food for 50 more people!

Is our timing wrong? Everyone knows that growth of grass drops off significantly in August. Would mid-August be a more logical date?

We must turn the attendance around, otherwise our exhibitors will not continue to support our programs. If you have any suggestions call, write or Fax them to me. By so doing you will contribute to growing better, safer sports turf.

- R.W. Sheard, *Executive Secretary*

APOLOGIES

You may be concerned about receiving this issue of the STA Newsletter over a month late. The reason is your Executive Secretary, who also produces the Newsletter, had volunteered to assist in directing the development of the research plot areas at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute. It has involved much more time than anticipated.

To date, 9 hectares of turf area have been established. Two, 1000 square meter sand based rooting zone research areas are being built. Next month an irrigation system will be installed in the two sand based areas and in one quarter of the 9 hectare area. Your indulgence in receiving your Newsletter late is sincerely appreciated by those at GTI.

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