

SPORTS TURF Manager

VOLUME 8
ISSUE 3

SEPTEMBER
1995

ISSN 1201-3765

...for better, safer Sports Turf

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fall is with us!

I hope all members have had an enjoyable summer and an opportunity to take some vacation for rest and relaxation. The summer seems to go so quickly, although we here in Southern Ontario cannot complain about the weather. It has been extremely hot for a good deal of the last couple of months. With record high temperature and humidex readings on some occasions, I am sure turfgrass was not the only thing feeling the heat. I hope your athletic fields have withstood the drought, insect, diseases and weed infestations which frequently accompany such hot, humid conditions. If fields have undergone considerable stress this past summer, now's the time to implement some maintenance work.

We were blessed with warm weather and sunny skies for our 8th Annual Field Day held on July 21st at Globe Park in Hamilton. Our theme this year was Ball Diamond Maintenance. While attendance was slightly disappointing, those turf managers who attended were treated to excellent speakers in Mark Altman from Altman & Altman Associates, and Bob Kennedy, Supt. of Parks for the City of St. Catharines. In addition, delegates had the opportunity to see some of the finest equipment available for maintaining ball diamond infields and outfields. Sincere thanks to all suppliers for their continued commitment to our Field Day. I extend special thanks to our Directors, David Smith, Jane Rivers, and Everett Nieukoop for their efforts in planning and putting on

the event. It was an excellent educational opportunity for our members, topped off with a barbecue for all, and baseball game for some of the attendees.

At the Field Day it was my pleasure to announce the recipients of our educational scholarships as Mr. Tommy Joe Coffey Jr. and Mr. Gord Noble, both from the City of Hamilton. Each year the Sports Turf Association makes available a \$200 scholarship and 1-year subscription to the Sports Turf Manager to the student who receives the highest academic achievement in sports turf courses at the Guelph Turf Managers Short Course. This year, due to the closeness of the grades, we were pleased to award two scholarships. I presented Mr. Coffey with his scholarship award at the Field Day. Unfortunately Mr. Noble was unable to attend, but we extend our sincere congratulations.

Your Directors have been working steadily at planning our portion of the upcoming Ontario Turfgrass Symposium, Jan. 3 to 5, 1996 at the Regal Constellation Hotel in Toronto. It plans to be another superb conference for educational opportunities, networking with industry suppliers, meeting old friends and making new acquaintances. Please note the change in venue and remember to attend our Annual Meeting which is held during the OTS. Watch the OTS brochures and information package for the time and date of the Annual Meeting. Also when registering for the OTS, it is very important to remember to **identify yourself as an STA member.**

If your athletic fields require some renovation from the summer heat and compaction due to usage and/or a lack of irrigation, now is the time to implement an aeration, topdressing and overseeding

program. With cooler air temperatures, and still warm soil conditions, overseeding to fill in bare spots or thicken high traffic areas is ideally suited to this time of year. You'll be amazed at the results with turf type perennial rye in particular, and how quickly your turf will recover. Remember that aeration, be it coring or slicing, is best done in several directions. If topdressing is beyond your budget, dragmat the cores back into the holes as a topdressing material. It has been my experience that overseeding is best done the length of the field and then again at a 45 degree angle. Whether or not your fields have undergone a lot of stress this summer, try a dormant application of nitrogen this fall and see the results next spring. I believe you will be impressed.

Best of luck with your fall athletic field maintenance programs.

Wishing you better, safer sports turf.

Christopher Mark
President

SPORTS TURF ASSOCIATION OFFICE HOURS



Mrs. Sonja Schneider will be in the office from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The office phone number is (519) 763-9431. At other times a message may be left on the Voice Mail system. Please include the vital information of name, telephone number with area code, and time of calling. The office may also be reached at any time on FAX #(519) 766-1704.

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