

SPORTS TURF MANAGER

... for safe, natural Sports Turf

AUTUMN 2002

VOLUME 15 • ISSUE 3

Reaching for the Gold

STA'S 15TH ANNUAL FIELD DAY RECEIVED STELLAR REVIEWS FROM PARTICIPANTS

Your Sports Turf Association's 15th Annual Field Day was a rousing success! It was held in Oakville at the River Oaks Recreation Centre. This is a fairly new facility and an excellent venue with several baseball/softball diamonds and soccer fields – all close by for on field demonstrations and equipment displays. Over 100 people registered for the day in addition to 19 suppliers and nine STA board members.

Bob McFarland, Director of Parks, Oakville, began the day with welcoming remarks and thanks for the contributions of board members Jane Arnett-Rivers and Chris Mark as well as work done by staff to get the facility ready for the field day. He concluded by stressing the importance of educational events such as the field day saying that these functions were beneficial for those present to obtain the latest in technological information in order to do their jobs that much better.

Chair and STA President Paul Turner then presented two STA scholarships to Craig Hirschberger and John Peek, both of whom were in attendance. These scholarships give the winner a one year membership in the Association plus an award of \$200. Next, Jane Arnett-Rivers read a list of sponsor suppliers who had contrib-

uted and continue to contribute to the success of these field days and thanked them individually.

Intelligent Irrigation

Gregory Snaith, first speaker of the day, talked about *Intelligent Irrigation*. He immediately put participants to work by having them answer a multiple choice exam based on Dr. Bob Sheard's book *Under-*

standing Turf Management (a book of which he said all turf people should have a copy ... and we didn't pay him for that endorsement!).

Questions on the exam related to soil/water/plant relationships; soil; sand, silt and clay; soil structure, density and porosity; soil air and water; movement of water in soil; efficient irrigation scheduling; and pest management. The last few questions were simple mathematic problems for intelligent irrigation management.

Intelligent irrigation is about applying the right amount of water at the right time

based on plant water requirements. Over irrigation can be just as detrimental to the health of the grass plant as under irrigation. Snaith's presentation was about what's new, available technology, and how that technology can be used to simplify the challenges of irrigation scheduling which the turf manager faces throughout a changing season.

Greg then outlined many ways in which to use your irrigation water wisely and the savings which may be realized. He will be writing an in-depth article on this timely subject in a future issue of the *Sports Turf Manager*. **continued on page 7**



From left to right: Field Day speakers Julie Dionne, Gregory Snaith, Olympian Becky Kellar and Mel Lanford pose with the gold medal.

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