



Hello to our members.

Well it's that time of year again – spring! For all of us this is truly the busiest time of the year and 2002 is no exception. Can we have winter back?! The grass is growing, new students are in and all “#?#” is breaking loose. Just another year in the life of a turf manager. The only thing that is saving our skin is the fact that it has been a cool start to the spring; otherwise, we would be in deep trouble ...

I would like to take this time to thank all of our members who have renewed and updated their information for the 2002 season and to extend a sincere welcome to new members. This information is extremely important as it allows us to keep our database current, which helps us to inform you of new events, promotions and, of course, the annual STA Field Day. The 2002 *Membership Roster* is now being compiled and should be out to you in the near future.

Continuing on a positive note, the *STM Cumulative Index* is now complete. And what a task it was. All articles were sorted from 1987- 2001 to allow for quick reference. The project was undertaken by Mike Bladon and Bob Sheard who have spent a considerable amount of time working on this. Of course I should not forget our Executive Manager, Lee Huether, who worked along side Mike and Bob to get this task completed. Thanks from the Board and Membership!

In an ongoing effort to strengthen our association and membership, we sponsored another exciting educational event with our ORFA partners at St. Michael's College in Toronto. These workshops are designed to bring the turf knowledge of our association to the membership of the ORFA group. The workshop was a great success and a big thank you to Chris Mark and Jane Arnett-Rivers for doing some

great public speaking. The next joint venture with ORFA is in Halton Hills on October 23rd at the Mold-Masters SportsPlex. Look for further details in the newsletter.

Annual Field Day

The Sports Turf Association's 15th annual event has been finalized. It will be held September 12th at the River Oaks Recreation Centre in the Town of Oakville. The Field Day will consist of various topics that YOU, our members, have asked for. Irrigation is back on the agenda and no, not the same old stuff. We have allotted a set time in the program for Greg Snaith of Rain Bird to talk irrigation and about the new water management systems that are available to turf managers.

We will also be drawing on the resources of the University of Guelph to learn about turf covers for your soccer fields/ball parks and what to do about winter kill. This session will be presented by Dr. Julie Dionne who is the new Turf Management Faculty member with the Department of Plant Agriculture. Julie recently accepted the position and has since moved her family to Ontario from her roots in Quebec. On behalf of our members, we wish Julie much success.

Mel Lanford, a true turf professional who has earned his reputation from hard work and lots of experience, will be a featured speaker. Mel started out in the municipal sector and then moved to the private sector working with none other than the New York Yankees organization. He is a man who is full of knowledge and tips and he looks forward to sharing those with our members. Mel is featured every month in the Sports Turf Managers Association's magazine *SPORTSTURF*. Check out the **Travellin' Man** (as he is known) on page 7. Having Mel come over to Ontario is a major coup for the Association as he is currently one of the hottest speakers on the turf tour.

We will also have a visit from Becky Kellar, a member of Team Canada's women's gold medal hockey team who will tell us about the Olympic dream and the hard work and dedication it takes to get there. Of course she will bring her gold medal with her and I will have my camera on hand to get some shots!



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The annual STA Field Day will be held on September 12 at the River Oaks Recreation Centre in the Town of Oakville. An exciting line-up of speakers and exhibitors has been arranged.

I believe that we have another exciting day planned, so book it in your day planners and we will forward further information as it's available. Let's make it the best event yet! I look forward to seeing all of you in September at the Field Day.

In an effort to streamline member transactions and services, we now accept MasterCard and Visa to allow you to pay membership dues, buy books and of course, register for the annual Field Day. This is something you requested. The new Sports Turf Association website will be up and running in the latter part of the year. The new site is registered at www.sportsturfassociation.com and work will soon commence. Keep an eye out for more information. Have a great spring! ♦