

Sports Turf Manager

Volume 25, Issue 4, ISSN 1201-3765

is the official publication of the
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SPORTS TURF MANAGER

is published quarterly by the STA for free distribution to its membership. An annual subscription may be obtained for \$125/year. Please direct advertising inquiries to Lee Huether at the STA office.

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CANADA POST PUBLICATIONS MAIL SALES AGREEMENT No. 40031883

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President's Desk

BY PAUL GILLEN

As we close out our 25th anniversary year, my thanks to Lee Huether, Cheryl Machan and everyone involved who made this such a special time. It has been wonderful to see old faces and renew so many acquaintances among those people who worked tirelessly to lay the foundation to make this organization what it is today. Our banquet was well attended and enjoyed by everyone. While speeches were kept to a minimum, it was inspiring to hear Annette Anderson and Michael Bladon take us back through our history and see their resolve to make sports turf just as safe and playable as science and economics allow. Now it's up to us to build on this foundation for the next generation.



Paul Gillen addresses guests at the STA's 25th Anniversary Banquet on October 25.

We have included in this issue Dr. James Beard's article "The History of Sports Field Turfgrass Surfaces", presented at the 2012 Ontario Turfgrass Symposium (OTS). How appropriate is that to bring our anniversary to a fitting conclusion!

Our Field Day was again a tremendous success and the third highlight article "Strategies for Managing Heavily Used Fields" is inside. While we recognize that this topic has been

addressed in previous issues, best cultural practices for safety and playability cannot be stressed enough. Whatever it takes to get this message through to the management and budget people is essential for a safe environment for users of every age and gender – that's our responsibility.

Education is paramount to our ability to produce the best playing surfaces that we can within whatever budget restrictions that we have to deal with. To that end, we recently took the Sports Turf Management and Maintenance Course to Moncton, New Brunswick, drawing participation from that province, Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island. 2013 course dates include April 29 to May 2 at the University of Guelph. Three conferences – that of the Sports Turf Managers Association in January, the OTS in February, and the Western Canada Turfgrass Association in March – provide a wonderful opportunity, not only to get updated on the latest and most cost-effective maintenance information, but to meet and share experiences with others who are facing similar problems. See the Event Calendar for details. I urge you to try to take advantage of at least one of these opportunities – it might be the best investment that you ever made. Just to get things started, we've included in this issue an article by OTS 2013 speaker Beth Rajnovich – "Developing a Long-Term Plan for Sports Fields in Waterloo". I wonder how many of you have this type of strategic thinking in place?

The Annual General Meeting of your association is scheduled for February 20, 2013 during the OTS. Members will have now received the Call for Nominations. Watch your mail or log-in to the "Members Only" section of the website for up-to-date information.

As always, a special welcome to all of our new members. And a reminder that membership invoices will be going out in January. Please watch your mail and remit payment in a timely fashion.

From all of us to each of you, have a safe and happy holiday season.