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## SPORTS TURF MANAGER

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### SPORTS TURF MANAGER

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### STA OFFICE HOURS

Lee Huether is in the office from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Tuesday through 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 be reached at any time by faxing (519) 766-1704 or via e-mail.

## The President's Desk – Gord Dol

*Winter has arrived. The time has finally come to sit back and reflect on the past season. A time to analyze what went well and what didn't go so well. For many of you, it is also budget preparation time, which I'm sure promises to be a daunting task given the current economic environment.*

### OTS is Just Around The Corner

The 2010 Ontario Turfgrass Symposium will be held February 17 & 18 in Rozanski Hall, University of Guelph. This year promises to be another great educational forum. The Sports Turf Association is proud to be a part of OTS, now in its 19<sup>th</sup> year.

On February 17, during the OTS, we also hold our annual general meeting, open to all members. At that time, we'll be electing new directors to the board. Now would be the time to consider allowing your name to stand for election. If this interests you, please speak to any board member or call Lee at our office. Deadline for nominations is December 18.



**It has been a great honour being your president for the past few years. I urge you to consider joining the Sports Turf Association board. It's a great network of dedicated professionals and an idea sounding board.**

### New International Affiliation

I am very pleased to announce a recent agreement with the Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA). The STA is now recognized by the STMA as an International Affiliate Organization. This officially opens the door to share information and resources between both organizations. STMA will also offer STA members access to their annual conference, education and training courses at member rates. I would like to thank Paul Gillen and Bob Kennedy for their hard work pulling this together.

### Term Coming to a Close

I have had the honour and privilege of being president of this great organization since the spring of 2006. Paul Gillen (our current VP) will be assuming the role

after the AGM. We have accomplished many tasks and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Lee and the boards of the last four years for their hard work and dedication. I will be moving into the past president's position and look forward to many more years of service to both the STA and the sports turf industry. ♦



**We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a healthy, prosperous New Year!**





Aerial View of The Guelph Turfgrass Institute, Fall 2009

# Industry Calendar of Events

**December 18, 2009**

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION DEADLINE!  
 Ontario Turfgrass Symposium  
 See p. 6 for turf sessions ★  
 Info: 519-767-5000  
[www.open.uoguelph.ca/ots](http://www.open.uoguelph.ca/ots)

**January 12-14**

Landscape Ontario Congress  
 Toronto, ON  
 Info: 800-265-5656  
[www.locongress.com](http://www.locongress.com)

**January 12-16**

Sports Turf Managers Association  
 21st Annual Conference & Exhibition  
 Orlando, Florida  
 Info: [www.stma.org/](http://www.stma.org/)  
[www.sportsturfassociation.com](http://www.sportsturfassociation.com)

**January 29 to February 3**

Western Canada Turfgrass  
 Association 47th Annual  
 Conference & Show  
 Nanaimo, BC  
 Info: [www.wctaturf.com](http://www.wctaturf.com)

**February 1-26**

University of Guelph  
 Turf Managers' Short Course  
 Guelph, ON  
 Info: 519-767-5000  
<http://tmcs.open.uoguelph.ca>

**February 12-28**

The Vancouver 2010 Olympic Games  
[www.vancouver2010.com](http://www.vancouver2010.com)

**February 17 & 18**

Ontario Turfgrass Symposium  
 The Culture of Green  
 University of Guelph ★  
 Guelph, ON  
 Info: 519-767-5000  
[www.ots.open.uoguelph.ca](http://www.ots.open.uoguelph.ca)

**February 17**

Sports Turf Association ★  
 Annual General Meeting  
 University of Guelph (at the OTS)  
 Guelph, ON  
 Info: 519-763-9431  
[www.sportsturfassociation.com](http://www.sportsturfassociation.com)

**February 26 to March 2**

43rd Annual Canadian International  
 Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show  
 Toronto, ON  
[www.golfsupers.com](http://www.golfsupers.com)

**March 12-21**

The Vancouver 2010  
 Paralympic Games  
[www.vancouver2010.com](http://www.vancouver2010.com)

**May 3-6**

Sports Turf Association  
 Sports Turf Management &  
 Maintenance Course ★  
 University of Guelph  
 Guelph, ON  
 Info: 519-763-9431  
[www.sportsturfassociation.com](http://www.sportsturfassociation.com)



# Turfgrass Student Bloggers "Link Up" at U of Guelph

Future leaders in the turf industry are practicing citizen journalism and making online connections with industry. The 30 diploma in turfgrass management students from the University of Guelph, class of 2011, are blogging about turf trends and expressing strong opinions concerning the industry.

about course renovations, the cosmetic pesticide ban and economic struggles in the turf industry.

"The blogs posted by the turfgrass students incorporate significant issues in the industry, says Rob Witherspoon, director of the associate diploma in turfgrass management. Adds communications

**Join the discussion – or simply drop in to learn more!** We've loaded the links of individual bloggers on our site, [www.sportsturfassociation.com](http://www.sportsturfassociation.com). **Also...** *Tweeting on turf: Linking social media with your business* will be presented at the 2010 Ontario Turfgrass Symposium. Visit [www.ots.open.uoguelph.ca](http://www.ots.open.uoguelph.ca) for all the details.

"Blogs and other internet-based communication is what golf course members are starting to expect from their superintendents," says student Matthew Eastman. "We're writing relevant stories and linking to turfgrass companies."

These students are tomorrow's golf course superintendents, lawn care specialists and sports field managers. Along with courses on soil, plant biology and equipment, they're taking communications and have started weekly blogs tackling turf issues. They're learning that blogging is an important tool in the turfgrass industry.

Every Thursday, class members take a field trip to a different destination in southern Ontario. They learn about problems, skills and new ideas about general turf maintenance. Some students have blogged



course co-instructor Owen Roberts: "The students are working hard to excel in effective communication techniques."

For more information, contact Rob Witherspoon, Program director, [robwith@uoguelph.ca](mailto:robwith@uoguelph.ca), 519-824-4120 (x 56886) or Owen Roberts, Communications instructor, [owen@uoguelph.ca](mailto:owen@uoguelph.ca), 519-824-4120 (x 58278). ♦



## Press Release

### BENCO ARTICULATED 4X4 UTILITY TRACTOR



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## SPORTS TURF RELATED SESSIONS

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

**9:00-9:45. W3 "Field of Dreams": Real Turf for BMO Field** *Bob Hunter, Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment.* After successfully sodding BMO Field for the Toronto FC vs. Real Madrid friendly, the decision was made by Toronto city council to install permanent natural turf at BMO Field. With a four party agreement in place between the City of Toronto, Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment, and the provincial and federal governments, Bob Hunter will talk about the plans to have the turf ready for the Toronto FC home opener next season.

**10:15-11:00. W4 If you sod it they will come: Sodding BMO Field for Real Madrid vs. Toronto Football Club Friendly** *Claus Zander, Zander Sod.* When Toronto FC wanted Real Madrid to fly in for a "friendly" game, it had to be played on natural turf. They were given 40 hours to cover the artificial field with sod, no room for excuses, the teams were going to play. The turf had to be removed immediately following the match with the artificial field prepared and ready to play on again. This talk will document the process from start to finish.

**1:30-2:30. W6 What are the true costs of the cosmetic pesticides ban for municipalities?** *Mark Dykstra, City of Waterloo, Bill Slute, City of Oshawa, Andy Wickens, City of*

*Mississauga.* Parks Directors from municipalities that have had bans in place for several years will speak about what it costs to implement the cultural practices that are necessary to maintain quality sports fields without pesticides.

**2:30-3:30. W7 Sports field speed and strength – Just the beginning..!** *Dr. Tim Vanini, New Dimensions Turfgrass.* This talk discusses the establishment of Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass, *Poa supina*, and bermudagrass in 70 and 435 day windows. In these studies, establishment speed is not only evaluated, but also strength of the playing surface (traction, divoting resistance, sod strength, etc). In real life situations, traffic is applied at early stages of plant development and there is a need to identify grasses that withstand intense pressure. This information can aid sports field managers in making best decisions regarding species and cultivars.

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19

**9:00-9:30. T1 Advances in fertilizer: Information on traditional, slow release, foliar and organic fertilizers** *Dr. Eric Lyons, University of Guelph.* Proper plant nutrition is essential in maintaining healthy sports turf. New products are always coming to the market and this talk will focus on both new and old fertilizer technologies and how to integrate them to better achieve the goals of your fertility program.

**9:30-10:30. T2 How to get a sports field ready in 70 days – from theory to practice** *Dr. Tim Vanini, New Dimensions Turfgrass.* Little information exists for sports field managers on optimal ways to re-establish trafficked areas on a sports field during a 70-day, summer window. This research study looked at turfgrass cover percent ratings, traction, and peak deceleration. The best strategies from this study were applied to a high school scenario in the summer of 2008. The results of this scenario will be discussed at this session.

**11:00-12:00. T3 What works best for building a sports field? In-house, architect bid-contractor, design/build or other?** *Gord Dol, Dol Turf Restoration Ltd., Mario Pecchia, City of Toronto and Harry Kodoors, MMM Group.* This panel will discuss the pros and cons of the different avenues for sports field construction.

## PLENARIES

- Overview of the cosmetic pesticide ban, Violet van Wassenae, MOE
- Making sense of new products, Dr. Eric Lyons, Univ. of Guelph
- Dealing with a critical injury/death at a sporting event, Terry Piche, ORFA
- Tweeting on turf: Linking social media with your business, Andrew Douglas, Univ. of Guelph, & Anne Douglas, Anne Douglas Communications

## IMPORTANT REGISTRATION DETAILS

**EARLY BIRD: DECEMBER 18, 2009**

**Discounts.** As an STA member in good standing, you qualify for lower association rates. In addition, others from your facility/organization who are not STA members qualify for the lower association rates when registered with a member. Send the registration in the same envelope, fax it at the same time, or make just one phone call to register. Visit [www.ots.open.uoguelph.ca](http://www.ots.open.uoguelph.ca) for more details.



# STA Recognized by STMA as First International Affiliate Organization

The Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) announced recently that it is recognizing the Sports Turf Association (STA) as its first International Affiliate Organization. STA and STMA will collaborate and share information and educational resources.

To be an International Affiliate, the organization must be recognized as a business entity in their country and provide proof to STMA annually; develop bylaws or other governing documents; and have a governing Board of Directors. The STA meets these requirements and officially

became an STMA International Affiliate Organization on November 5th.

In addition to sharing information and resources, STMA will list the STA on its website as an International Affiliate Organization, provide one membership annually to the President of the STA, and will offer to the membership of the STA conference registration and education and training resources at STMA member rates.

STMA President Abby McNeal, CSFM, was enthusiastic about the new partnership. "Officially establishing a relationship with the STA will help to connect our memberships and allow us to collaborate on issues common across the profession," says McNeal. "Our Board of Directors has much respect for the work of the STA, and we know we will learn from them."

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## ABOUT STMA

STMA is the not-for-profit, professional association for the more than 2,800 members who manage sports fields in the USA. The membership's goal is to manage natural turf and synthetic surfaces to produce safe and aesthetically pleasing playing surfaces for athletes at all levels of playing abilities.

Gord Dol, STA President, concurs. "We believe that this is an important step forward in establishing an information conduit for organizations around the world to share research, knowledge and experience for the advancement of everyone involved in the sports turf industry." ♦

Editor's note: STA members may access the STMA conference registration form at member rates at [www.sportsturfassociation.com / Members Only / STMA](http://www.sportsturfassociation.com/MembersOnly/STMA). You must log-in to access this section of the website.

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# Artificial Turf Dying in Major League Baseball



*Former professional baseball player Maury Wills remembered back 43 years ago when he became the first batter to hit on artificial turf in a major league game. Even when the green rug was novel, he didn't like it.*

I'm a traditionalist," said the former Los Angeles Dodger. "I'm still an old-school guy. I believe baseball was meant to be played outdoors and be played in the daytime."

Turns out, most others think baseball is better on grass, too. The sport's turf wars are nearing an end.

Once regarded as magic carpets that would eliminate bad hops and minimize rainouts, artificial surfaces are going the way of the dead ball and complete games.

When the Minnesota Twins open Target Field in April 2010, just two non-grass

fields will remain in the major leagues: the Rogers Centre in Toronto and Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg, FL. That's down from a high of 10 artificial surfaces in 1977-78 and again from 1982-94.

While colleges and high schools actually are installing more artificial fields – to accommodate multiple sports – artificial turf is unloved by Major League Baseball.

"Baseball in the Metrodome is an unnatural act," Atlanta Braves president John Schuerholz said. Next season will have just 162 games on artificial turf, the fewest since 1969.



Rogers Centre

"I'm personally very happy that they're gone," baseball commissioner Bud Selig said. "I understood the need for artificial turf, particularly in multipurpose stadiums. But I think the players are better off and I think that the game is better, so I'm happy."

Players who still spend a majority of their games on artificial turf say they can feel it.

Tampa Bay Rays manager Joe Maddon makes sure to give All-Star outfielder Carl Crawford days off when he has a lot of consecutive games on turf. "I got away with it when I was 21. I'm a little older now – I'm almost 30, and it becomes tougher," Crawford said. "It definitely takes a toll on your body when you have to play 81 games on it. And we're in a division where you play another nine games on the road. That means you're playing more games on it than you are on natural grass. Basically, you play the best you can with it, but it's not easy."

from Boston, was out in right field in a day game in St. Louis in July or August and it's 100 degrees. He had rubber cleats and had to call time out. They had melted. If I wore the metal spikes, it would have me branded under the soles on my feet on a real hot day, from the metal, it would sunburn my heel and the balls of my feet. I remember and I would go, 'Why are my feet on fire?'"

Los Angeles outfielder Torii Hunter, who spent nine seasons at the Metrodome, said the artificial turf was "like running in sand" and hurt his hamstrings, lower back, knees and calf muscles.

Hunter, who left the artificial turf of the Metrodome for Anaheim's grass after the

**"I'm personally very happy that they're gone,"** baseball commissioner Bud Selig said. "I understand the need for artificial turf, particularly in multipurpose stadiums. But I think the players are better off and I think that the game is better, so I'm happy."

Gold Glove first baseman Keith Hernandez says grounders "bounced like a SuperBall." But that wasn't the biggest problem: His ankles aren't good to this day because of the turf at Busch Stadium in St. Louis, his home field from 1974-83. He would soak his feet in buckets of water while the Cardinals batted.

"On day games the thermometer would read 148 off the turf," he recalled. "I remember Reggie Smith, when we got him

2007 season, can't wait until it's all gone. While there's still artificial turf, his body pays the price.

"During the season, you feel it after your first couple games," he said. "It takes me like a month and a half to really get over some of the soreness that you have after the season." ♦

— Associate Press Baseball writer  
Ronald Blum, Sept. 26, *Turfgrass Producers International E-Newsletter*, November 2009



## ODDS & ENDS

### STA Membership Plaques

Display membership plaques are available in executive engraved walnut for \$50 plus S&H & gst. To order, contact Lee at the STA office.

### Spring 2010 Submissions

If you have something you'd like to submit for the next issue, please forward it to the STA office by February 26, 2010.

### Editorial Content

Opinions expressed in articles published in *Sports Turf Manager* are those of the author and not necessarily those of the STA, unless otherwise indicated.

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## NEW MEMBERS

### Welcome to the STA!

**John Roddis**  
Dol Turf Restoration Ltd.  
Bond Head, ON

**Robert Glenwright**  
**Chris Nason**  
City of Fredericton, NB

**Keith D'Lugos**  
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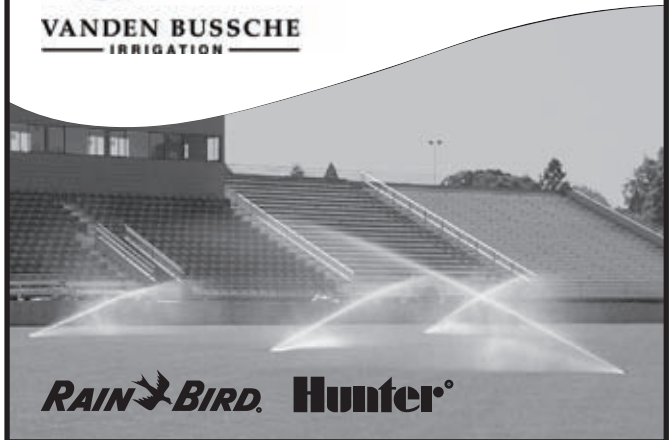
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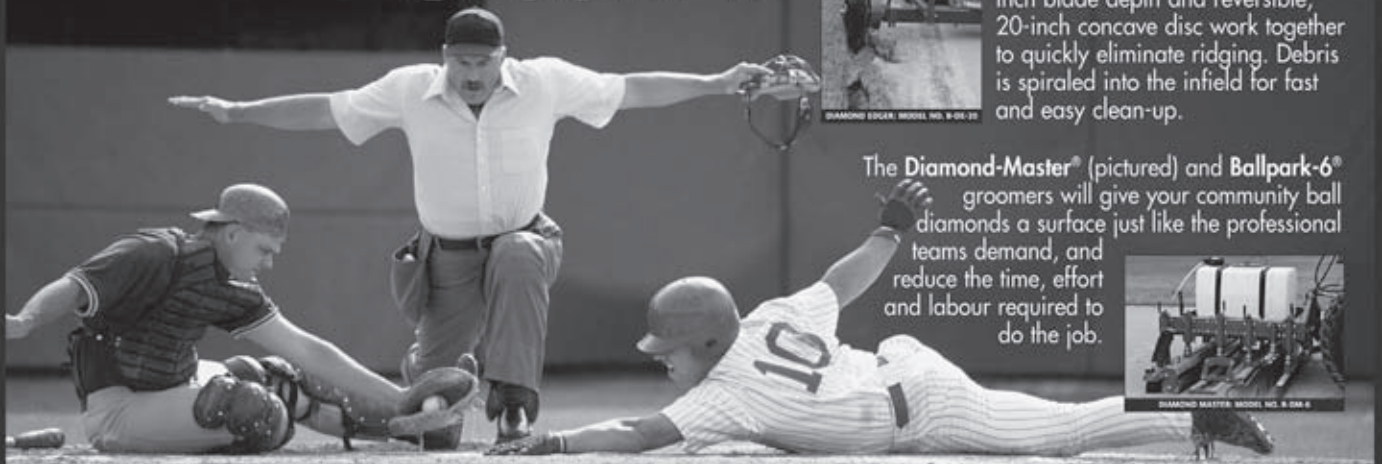


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