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Sports Turf Manager

FOR BETTER, SAFER SPORTS TURF. WINTER 2010.

O, Wind. If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind? ~Percy Bysshe Shelley



Inside this issue...

REGULAR COLUMNS, DEPARTMENTS & SMALL FEATURES

4 The President's Desk & New Members. Make a commitment to a renewed focus on learning in 2011 (and may we suggest you begin with the OTS).

7 Event Calendar. It's a jam packed educational & networking schedule...

8 OTS 2011. Browse the sports turf related sessions & get conference ready!

10 A Putting Green & A Turfgrass Display Garden? Yes, it's a reality. Next time you're in Guelph, drop by the Turfgrass Institute and pick up a golf club.

Deadline for Spring 2011 Sports Turf Manager: March 4th.

WHAT'S ONLINE

www.sportsturfassociation.com

STA Membership Directory

Is your contact information current? Your email address must be registered to login to the "Members Only" section.

Turf Trades Employment Board

Advertising a position? Searching for a job? Visit us online.

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The Athletic Field Construction Manual & Understanding Turf Management.

Sports Turf Manager

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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.

President's Desk

BY PAUL GILLEN

As this message is being written, the west has seen snow and well below zero temperatures and the east is bracing for the same later this week. Welcome to winter. Now is the time to consider what you need for next year and start the planning process.



Courtesy of ORFA

POSA Synthetic Turf Seminar. STA President Paul Gillen welcomes attendees October 28th in Mississauga.

The POSA "Introduction to Synthetic Turf" seminar was held at the Hershey Sports Centre in Mississauga on October 27 & 28. From all of the evaluations received, it was well accepted and appreciated. Thanks to our guest speakers, exhibitors, and the host complex, for all of their efforts in making this event such a success.

Due to wide ranging interest on the topic, we've made synthetic turf the primary focus of this issue. Also, as mentioned on the cover, there will be supplemental information at two additional sessions planned for the Ontario Turfgrass Symposium at the University of Guelph in February.

Have you thought of playing a more active role in the STA? Being a director is a rewarding volunteer effort – not to mention a great networking opportunity. Nominations are due December 24th and our AGM is held in conjunction with the OTS in February.

Speaking of the OTS, see the program at a glance included on page 8. There are a number of STA members on the speaker roster this year. Also making a presentation will be Kim Heck, Executive Manager of the Sports Turf Managers Association in the US. Ms. Heck has spoken to international audiences in the past but this is her first visit to Canada and we are fortunate to have her attend the OTS. It should be an interesting session.

The annual STMA Conference is in Austin, Texas in January, 2011. A reminder that your STA membership entitles you to register at STMA member rates. Details can be found at www.stma.org. There is a registration form available on the STA website via the "Members Only" section.

I would encourage all of you to make plans to attend the STA Annual General meeting to be held in conjunction with the OTS on February 23. All members have received a call for nominations for directors and officers, and these are due no later than December 24. This is your association – make it work for you.

POSA Fall Update. Don't forget to build your educational credits.

The Parks and Open Space Alliance (POSA) continues to move forward strengthening parks and open space practitioners through professional development, recognition and advocacy. The Alliance offered two different events over recent months that focused on meeting practitioner training needs. The first was the 4th Annual Summer Operational Forum June 23, 2010 in the City of Cambridge with a theme focused on "Accessibility in Ontario's Parks and Open Spaces." Recently, an "Introduction to Synthetic Turf and Maintenance" training session was held October 27 and 28 in Mississauga.

Delegates may wish to apply the educational credits received from both of these events towards the Parks and Open Space Professional Training Program Level II certificate. To meet the requirements of Level I, a practitioner must successfully complete the following three courses: Parks Maintenance and Operations; Parks and Landscaping Equipment Safety Operations; and Sports Turf Management and Maintenance. In addition, the practitioner must have a minimum Grade 12 education; be a member in good standing of the OPA, the ORFA or the STA; maintain current WHMIS and Standard First Aid training; and have a minimum of 24 months practical work experience in the parks and open space industry. The application of other training credits will apply towards meeting Level II certificate criteria.

Please visit www.posalliance.c/documents/POSATRainingLevel1and2.pdf for more information. Alternatively, partner websites may be viewed as a source of other education and professional development opportunities (www.ontarioparksassociation.ca, www.orfa.com and www.sportsturfassociation.com).

Lifelong Learning

DR. KATERINA JORDAN'S PERSPECTIVE...

Take advantage of field days, conferences and even spending a little time each week on the internet...

The key to properly managing pests and abiotic stresses is understanding the life-cycles of the various weeds, insects and even the desirable turf, as well as the conditions under which they all thrive. ...

The more you educate yourself and understand what you are fighting in pest management, the more successful you will be...

~ Autumn 2010 issue, Sports Turf Manager



Seasons Greetings from the STA

As we approach the end of 2010, on behalf of Lee & the STA Board of Directors, we wish you all Season's Greetings and the very best in 2011.

NEW MEMBERS

Richard Hawkins, Markham, ON
Hawkins Contracting Services Limited

Jacques Zara, Saint-Colomban, QC
GTR Turf

Dan Murnaghan & Ray Stukas
City of Toronto, ON

Odds & Ends...

STA MEMBERSHIP PLAQUES

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

TURF TRADES EMPLOYMENT ADS

Are you advertising a position or job searching? Visit us online at www.sportsturfassociation.com and click on "Turf Trades." Cost is \$75 plus HST for STA members for a 2-month listing.

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STMA CONFERENCE

January 11-15, Texas

Early Bird Date: Dec. 15th

Your Sports Turf Association is an International Affiliate Organization of the Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA). As such STA members may register for the US organization's annual conference and exhibition at member rates.

To access the STMA/STA member conference registration form, login to the "Members Only" section of the STA website at www.sportsturfassociation.com. For conference details, visit www.stma.org.

CONFERENCE TIPS

Reaching Out To People

My most important suggestion is to meet or introduce yourself to at least one person at the conference you've never met before.... A surprising number of people will remember you, even years after the introduction. This also pushes you outside of your comfort zone of acquaintances and allows you to discuss ideas with people who will expand your world of thoughts and information. Not only that, but no doubt they'll introduce you to at least one of their friends, and so on.

I also try to meet at least one person to whose position or job I aspire. This allows for your own professional growth and gets you acquainted with a possible mentor.

— Warren J. Wilson, excerpt from "At Least One Way to Add Value to Conferences," *EduCause Quarterly*, No. 2, 2005.

STM EDITORIAL CONTENT

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

Event Calendar

ASSOCIATION EVENTS ARE HIGHLIGHTED IN GREEN

December 15. Early Bird Registration Deadline. Sports Turf Managers Association 22nd Annual Conference & Exhibition. Austin, TX, www.stma.org
Note: STA members can register at STMA member rates!

December 17. Early Bird Registration Deadline. Ontario Turfgrass Symposium.

519-767-5000, www.ots.open.uoguelph.ca

January 11-13. Landscape Ontario Congress.

Toronto, ON, www.locongress.com

January 11-15. Sports Turf Managers Association 22nd Annual Conference & Exhibition. Austin, TX, www.stma.org (see early bird notice at top!)

January 12-14. Ontario Golf Superintendents Association.

Ontario Golf Course Management Conference and Trade Show
Windsor, ON, www.golfsupers.on.ca

January 31-February 25. University of Guelph Turf Managers' Short Course.
Guelph, ON, 519-767-5000, <http://tmisc.open.uoguelph.ca>

February 23 & 24. Ontario Turfgrass Symposium: On the Cutting Edge.

University of Guelph, Guelph, ON, 519-767-5000, www.ots.open.uoguelph.ca

February 23. Sports Turf Association Annual General Meeting.

University of Guelph, Guelph, ON (during the Ontario Turfgrass Symposium)
519-763-9431, www.sportsturfassociation.com

March 4-8. Canadian Golf Superintendents Association & the Western Canada Turfgrass Association Canadian International Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show
Vancouver, BC, www.golfsupers.com, www.wctaturf.com

May 1. Sports Turf Association Robert W. Sheard Scholarship Application Deadline. 519-763-9431, www.sportsturfassociation.com

May 2-5. Sports Turf Association Sports Turf Management & Maintenance Course.

University of Guelph, Guelph, ON (during the ORFA Annual Professional Development Program). 519-763-9431, www.sportsturfassociation.com

If you have an industry-related event you'd like publicized, contact Lee at 519-763-9431, info@sportsturfassociation.com.

On the Cutting Edge

OTS 2011, FEBRUARY 23 & 24, 2011, ROZANSKI HALL, UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH

Sports Turf Specific Sessions



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23

W6 11:15 am - 12:00 pm. Turf seeds vs. weed seeds: The ultimate competition for space and nutrients on a trafficked field. Kathleen Dodson, University of Guelph.

The public's expectations for safe, reliable, ready-to-play athletic fields puts particular pressure on sports field managers. An examination of the weed seed bank and the impact of overseeding with both perennial ryegrass and supina bluegrass will be discussed.

W7 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm. Artificial turf: The challenges and opportunities. Frank Cain, University of Guelph, Jay Todd, Downsview Park & Frank Erle, University of Western Ontario.

This panel discussion will focus on how staff and the training of staff are impacted when sports fields are altered from natural turf to artificial turf surfaces.

W8 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm. Alternative pest management: The Cosmetic Pesticides Ban two years in. Tennessee Propedo, City of Hamilton, Dennis Wale, City of Brantford, Jane Arnett, Town of Oakville & Pam Charbonneau, OMAFRA.

This panel discussion will give municipalities, from large to small, an opportunity to share how they are managing their fields in reaction to the Cosmetic Pesticides Ban. Discussion will focus on cultural practice basics "from the weird to the wonderful."

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24

T1 9:00 am - 9:45 am. Building your personal brand in the sports turf industry. Kim Heck, Sports Turf Managers Association.

The perceptions others have of you can enhance or damage your career in sports turf management. Learn how to create a strong personal brand that establishes you as a professional and essential to the operational success of your sports facility.

T2 9:45 am - 10:15 am. New technologies in turf irrigation. Dr. Eric Lyons, University of Guelph.

Irrigation and the application of water become increasingly important if other agronomic tools are limited in sports turf environments. With more turf fields making use of irrigation systems every year, turf managers can benefit from the development of important new technologies. This session will discuss these advances in irrigation, their opportunities and limitations and how turf managers can make the most of these new technologies.

T3 10:45 am - 11:30 am. Preparing Moncton for Atlantic Canada's first regular season CFL game: challenges of combining artificial and natural turf. Gord Horsman, City of Moncton.

To prepare for this major sporting event, the turf at Université de Moncton Stadium had to be repaired and converted from the World International Association of Athletics Federation's track and field standards to CFL standards. Of particular concern were the transition areas between natural turf and artificial turf in the end zones. Managing material requirements and work orders in time for the big day added to the complexity in getting ready for this event.

T4 11:30 am - 12:00 pm. Overseeding: Does it work? Dr. François Tardif, University of Guelph.

Overseeding is promoted as a technique to enhance turf competitiveness against weed infestation. What, however, is the true success rate of overseeding? Can techniques be improved? The results of a three year study on soccer fields at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute describe best frequency, methods of application and seed mix for overseeding.

General Sessions

W2 Guelph Turfgrass Institute Update.

W3 What is the future using corn gluten based products for weed control in turf?

W4 What have we learned this season about Fiesta™ and Organosol® for broad-leaf weed control?

W5 Growing turfgrass without conventional herbicides: Examining the role of alternative strategies.

T19 Using your computer, smart phone and social media to get your message across.

T20 Turf Things Microscopic. Using dissecting microscopes to see things that are not easily viewed with the naked eye.

T21 Supervising 2011: A lot more than a white hat and a pay raise!

[Browse the OTS brochure \(in print or online\) for more sessions and details!](#)

ONTARIO'S KEY ANNUAL TURF CONFERENCE

Speakers from both industry and academia will provide important insights pertaining to the OTS 2011 theme – On the Cutting Edge. Delegates will participate in sessions providing up-to-date information responding to the complexities of maintaining healthy turf in today's more restrictive growing environment. Sports turf managers, facilities, lawn care and golf course professionals and nursery sod growers can all learn from the many session topics: from pest and disease controls to safety and liability issues in turf environments.

Turf managers and staff will benefit from both learning sessions and the ability to network with colleagues in the turf industry. Attending OTS offers insight into best practices as initiated by leaders in turf sciences locally, across Canada and beyond.

Registration opened November 12. The deadline for early bird registration is December 17. Visit the conference website at www.ots.open.uoguelph.ca or call 519.767.5000 for more information.

Important Registration Details

EARLY BIRD DATE: DECEMBER 17, 2010. STA 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 or call 519.767.5000 for more information.

QUOTABLE QUOTE....

By learning you will teach; by teaching you will learn.
~ Latin proverb



Top 10 Conference Tips

1. Plan ahead.
2. Set realistic expectations.
3. Use email to keep yourself on track, both at the conference and afterwards.
4. Write a daily summary of what you learn.
5. Share your ideas and experiences with colleagues.
6. "Divide and conquer" the program with colleagues for the most benefit to your institution.
7. Talk to people at the sessions you attend to create a network of new colleagues.
8. Attend sessions that will introduce you to new ideas rather than those where you might feel the most comfortable.
9. When you return home, set up an action plan (with milestones) and commit to reflecting on and assessing what you have learned.
10. Realize that the effect of attending a conference could be as subtle as a change in attitude.

— Joan Getman & Nikki Reynolds, *Educause Quarterly* Vol. 25(3), 2002 (as quoted by Warren Wilson, see citation pg. 7)

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The completed garden at the GTI.

Common & Uncommon Grasses Take Root in GTI Display Garden

Peter Purvis, GTI Station Manager & Rob Witherspoon, GTI Director, University of Guelph

Over a beer at “Shakies” (the Shakespeare Arms, a local turf student and staff watering hole), Rob Witherspoon confided in me an idea of his that had been brewing for a long time: “What if there was a site at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute (GTI) that would include representative plantings of many cool and warm season turf grasses that we could use for teaching and research – and what about a putting green with different grasses that people could practice on?” And so the Turfgrass Species Display Garden was born.



Several weeks after planting.

We know that Kentucky bluegrass, creeping bentgrass, perennial ryegrass and the fine fescues are the four main species of grasses used in Ontario. Unfortunately, there has been limited investigation into the suitability of alternative turfgrass species for use in sports fields, golf courses, sod production, parks, roadsides, landscape sites or other

turf areas. Fortunately, new turfgrass cultivars are constantly being developed and tested, but often an existing species may be all that a sports field manager requires for a specific application. Are there existing turfgrass species that can withstand drought or wet conditions, harsh winters, low fertility, disease pressures and many other extreme conditions yet retain good quality and recuperative potential? The

answer to this question is critical given the challenges of climate change, watering and nutrient restrictions, and pesticide bans.

The objective of the Turfgrass Species Display Garden is to establish a long-term research and teaching site that includes side-by-side representative plantings of a wide range of cool and warm season turf grasses. The garden will provide several benefits, including: