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Sports Turf Manager

FOR BETTER, SAFER SPORTS TURF. WINTER 2011.

Without continual growth and progress, such words as improvement, achievement and success have no meaning. ~Benjamin Franklin



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. There you will find the Call for Nominations, Slate of Nominees (in the new year), and details of our Annual General Meeting. The Registration form (at member rates) for the STMA annual conference & exhibition in Long Beach, California can also be accessed.

Michael J. Bladon Educational Link

The complete digital archives of the Sports Turf Manager as well as full subscriber access to Michigan State University's Turfgrass Information Centre.

Inside this issue...

REGULAR COLUMNS, DEPARTMENTS & SMALL FEATURES

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13 Grass Seed Update. Prices are going to increase and a look at a new spreading perennial ryegrass.

27 STA Scholarship. Submission deadline is May 1; applications are online.

Deadline for Spring 2012 Sports Turf Manager: March 10.

Sports Turf Manager

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STA OFFICE HOURS

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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.

President's Desk

BY PAUL GILLEN

This was quite a year from a weather perspective – from a cold, wet spring to a hot, dry couple of summer months, to a very wet, yet pretty warm fall. It has made maintaining athletic turf challenging to say the least! Speaking of maintenance, the 2nd POSA Introduction to Synthetic Turf and Maintenance Workshop was held in Oshawa on November 10. For those of you who couldn't attend, you missed a great opportunity to network and learn. On the bright side, we have included an interesting perspective piece on maintaining synthetic turf by former NFL head groundskeeper Rob Anthony in this issue.

For a greater understanding of synthetic turf certifications and testing, plan to attend the supplementary session at the Ontario Turfgrass Symposium. Grow Your Knowledge will be held February 22 & 23 at the University of Guelph. Special guest speaker is Dr. James Beard. I have worked in this industry for 30 years and Dr. Beard has always been known as the guru on the cutting edge of research, yet practical in his approach to application. OTS 2012 may be the only opportunity you will have to see and hear one of the truly great men of our generation in turfgrass science and I urge you to take advantage of it.



Dr. James Beard, Keynote Speaker, OTS 2012.

You won't want to miss Dr. James Beard, turf guru and keynote speaker at the Ontario Turfgrass Symposium. Beard, President of the International Sports Turf Institute, is one of the world's leading authorities on turf-grasses and turf science.

Keeping with tradition, the STA Annual General Meeting will be held during the conference on February 22. As this is our 25th anniversary year, I encourage all of you who can possibly make it to attend this historic meeting. You will have received your call for nominations to the board of directors by the time you're reading this. Consider lending some of your time and giving back to the industry that supports you by volunteering as a director. It's a wonderful networking experience and can be very rewarding as you help to shape opportunities for the next generation.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and our hard working staff, I wish you and your families a happy and safe holiday season and the very best for the New Year.

QUOTABLE QUOTE....

For last year's words belong to last year's language and next year's words await another voice. ~ T.S. Eliot

Which Canadian city can claim to be the rainiest or the snowiest?



From St. John's to Victoria, Canadians love to brag about the weather that they endure (or enjoy!). Surely their community must get the most this or that in the entire country! But which Canadian city really is the rainiest, the snowiest or the windiest? And where is the sunshine capital? To find the answers, David Phillips, Environment Canada's Senior Climatologist, and the nation's favourite weather guru, has analyzed 30 years of recent weather data for Canada's 100 largest cities. To see how your city ranks and for what, visit http://climate.weatheroffice.gc.ca/winners/intro_e.html.



November 2011 POSA Workshop

City of Mississauga's Carmen Roberto (left) and Cliff Towers provided the Synthetic Turf Maintenance session for the second year running. The city's first full year of operation with synthetic turf fields was in 2004 at the Hershey Sports Zone South. See pg. 15 for coverage.



Seasons Greetings From The STA

As we approach the end of 2011, on behalf of Lee, Cheryl & the STA Board of Directors, we wish you all Season's Greetings and the very best in 2012.

NEW & RETURNING MEMBERS

Ryan Scott, Gormley, ON
Rutherford Contracting Ltd.

Joe Breedon, City of Barrie, ON

Lorne Simpson, Town of Newmarket, ON

Robin Milne & Jeff Myer
Township of Guelph Eramosa, ON

Stephan Roy, Tapitec, Saint Laurent, QC

Andrew Godard, University of Guelph, ON

Scott Bowman, Speare Seeds

Jeremy Machin, Elora, ON
Township of Centre Wellington

Odds & Ends...

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.

STA MEMBERSHIP PLAQUES

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

SPORTS TURF MANAGER (STM) ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES

We keep professionals updated on leading research, STA programs and activities, and industry information and events. Because of its highly specific turf-related readership base, STM has proven to be a successful venue for industry advertisers. Contact us!

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.

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Event Calendar

ASSOCIATION EVENTS ARE HIGHLIGHTED IN GREEN

December 15, 2011. Early Bird Registration Deadline. Sports Turf Managers Association 23rd Annual Conference & Exhibition. See details below...

2012. The Sports Turf Association Celebrates its 25th Anniversary. 1987 to 2012!

January 6. Early Bird Registration Deadline. 21st Annual Ontario Turfgrass Symposium. See details below...

January 10-12. Landscape Ontario Congress
Toronto, ON, www.locongress.com

January 10-14. Sports Turf Managers Association 23rd Annual Conference & Exhibition. Long Beach, CA, www.stma.org
Note: STA members can register at STMA rates!

January 18-20. Ontario Golf Superintendents Association Golf Course Management Conference & Trade Show. Niagara Falls, ON, www.golfsupers.on.ca

January 21-24. Western Canada Turfgrass Association 49th Annual Conference & Trade Show, Victoria, BC, www.wctaturf.com

January 30 to February 24. University of Guelph Turf Managers' Short Course
Guelph, ON, www.tmsc.open.uoguelph.ca

February 5-9. Canadian Golf Superintendents Association Canadian International Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show, Calgary, AB, www.golfsupers.com

February 22 & 23. 21st Annual Ontario Turfgrass Symposium "Grow Your Knowledge." University of Guelph, Guelph, ON, www.turfsymposium.ca

February 22. Sports Turf Association Annual General Meeting at OTS 2012.
Info: 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

TURF TRADES

Employment Bulletin Board

Are you advertising a position? Are you searching for a job? Target your audience or refine your search with Turf Trades, an online resource for all staffing levels and areas of the sports turf industry. Employment Bulletin Board ads run for 60 days with an additional 30 days available at 1/2 the price. Cost including HST is \$84.75 for STA members and \$113 for non-members for the initial 60 day period. Payment by cheque (Canada only), American Express, MasterCard or Visa must accompany the job description. Jobs will be posted in a standard page format.



Contact Lee Huether at the office at 519-763-9431, info@sportsturfassociation.com

Grow Your Knowledge

OTS 2012, FEBRUARY 22 & 23, 2012, ROZANSKI HALL, UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH

Sports Turf & ORFA Specific Sessions

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

W6. Best management practices for sports fields. Brad Park, Rutgers University.

High traffic sports fields that receive little or no synthetic pesticide inputs require strict attention to cultural management. These practices include regular mowing, irrigation (where available), fertilization, cultivation and seeding. This presentation will describe these practices in detail and show how to integrate them into a practical management plan.

W7. How to influence the sports field maintenance budget. John Lohuis, City of Mississauga (retired). Parks, recreation and sports administrators are continually challenged to meet expectations when fiscal resources are dwindling and demands are increasing! Identify key stakeholders and learn new ways of “making the case” to procure necessary resources to be successful.

W8. Panel discussion: Working with purchasing, permitting, specification writing and special events. Dwayne McAllister/Town of Oakville, John D'Ovidio and Rob D'Ovidio/City of Mississauga, Terry Henderson/City of Guelph, Dennis Wale/City of Brantford.

Purchasing compliance agreement – does one exist in your municipality and are you in compliance? How do you make sure purchasing understands what you do and how you do it? What's your relationship with permitting and how can it improve? How do you get the product that you require and stay within guidelines when writing tenders? Do you have the necessary policies and procedures in place to be successful at hosting special events? Learn how to react to these challenges and more.

>> Thursday sessions on page 11...



Panel Discussion: Purchasing, permitting, specification writing & special events.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS (W3)

The history of turf. Dr. James Beard, International Sports Turf Institute.

Dr. Beard is one of the world's leading authorities on turfgrass science. He has spent most of his career in academic research and has pioneered investigations concerning turfgrasses and the ecology of grass. As the Guelph Turfgrass Institute and the Sports Turf Association celebrate 25th anniversaries, it is timely for Dr. Beard to discuss “The History of Turf.” This talk addresses the initial uses of turfgrass from the 15th century through the 18th century, early turfgrass cultural practices plus pre-1950 innovations in turf maintenance and post-1950 advances in turfgrass science.

General Sessions

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

W2. GTI update and 25th anniversaries of the GTI and STA. Rob Witherspoon, Guelph Turfgrass Institute.

W4. Plant responses to climate change.

Dr. Jonathan Newman, University of Guelph. A brief introduction regarding the impact of climate change on plant growth habits in Southern Ontario. Of particular interest will be how grass and weed species may respond.

W5. Phosphorous losses from turf and urban areas. Dr. Doug Soldat, University of Wisconsin.

Environmental issues associated with phosphorus pollution from urban and turf areas. Learn strategies to minimize loss and respond to research regarding the accuracy of soil testing.



ONTARIO'S KEY ANNUAL TURF CONFERENCE

Registration for OTS 2012 is now open. Individuals interested in attending the Ontario Turfgrass Symposium on February 22 & 23 can register online by going to www.turfsymposium.ca. The new website is easy to use and provides both online and printable registration opportunities. Look to the website to provide other current and important information. The print brochure for Grow Your Knowledge, OTS 2012, will be distributed in early December. Join turf industry experts, speakers, delegates and sponsors for two exciting days at the University of Guelph this February.

Important Registration Details

EARLY BIRD DATE: JANUARY 6, 2012. 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.turfsymposium.ca or call 519.767.5000 for more information.

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SPORTS TURF ASSOCIATION

The Sports Turf Association was conceived in 1987 when, at a 'brainstorming' session held at the University of Guelph, a broad segment of the turf industry endorsed its need. Of particular concern at that meeting was the need to minimize and avoid injury to participants using athletic facilities where they relate to sports turf. Twenty-five years later we continue to promote better, safer sports turf through innovation, education and professional programs.



Strategic meeting at Bow Lake, August 16, 1988.
From left to right: Geoff Corlett, Michael Bladon,
Annette Anderson, Robert Allen & Ron Dubyk.

GUELPH TURFGRASS INSTITUTE

The initial idea for the creation of the GTI came from discussions amongst University of Guelph faculty after they had collaborated to host the International Turfgrass Research Conference at Guelph in 1981. Formally created by the University of Guelph Senate as a centre for excellence in turfgrass and related research, education and information, the GTI quickly garnered the support of the turfgrass industry through a fundraising campaign led by the Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation. Sparked by a major donation from golf course owners Mac and Beth Frost, the campaign raised over one million dollars to fund construction of the G.M. Frost Research & Information Centre, that was officially opened in the summer of 1993. True to its original mandate, the GTI continues to serve as a focus for turfgrass research, education and information, not just for scientists and students at the University of Guelph, but for the entire Ontario and Canadian turfgrass industries.