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# Sports Turf Manager

FOR BETTER, SAFER SPORTS TURF. SPRING 2012.

Spring - an experience in immortality. ~Henry D. Thoreau



Our roots run 25 years deep.

## WHAT'S ONLINE

[www.sportsturfassociation.com](http://www.sportsturfassociation.com)

### STA Membership Directory

Like changing your clocks in Spring, routinely check to see if your contact information is current. Your email address must be registered to login to the 'Members Only' section.

### Members Only Section

STA Constitution and By-Laws. From our AGM, Executive Manager's Summary and Membership Analysis.

### Michael J. Bladon

#### Educational Link

Search the Michigan State University's Turfgrass Information Centre

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Deadline for Summer 2012 Sports Turf Manager: May 26.

BY PAUL GILLEN

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Jason Inwood, Bob Kennedy,  
Ken Pavely, Paul Turner,  
Dennis Wale, David Warden

## SPORTS TURF MANAGER

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## STA OFFICE HOURS

Lee Huether is in the office from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Tuesday through Friday. 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.

W elcome to this, the first edition of our 25th year. It seems like just yesterday that Bruce Calhoun was convincing me of the need for an association such as this and the benefits that could accrue from my support. Little did I know then the extent to which I would become involved. The time has passed quickly and I have been fortunate to have been introduced to, and worked with, some truly great people who personify everything that is so good about our industry segment. This year will be our springboard for another 25 years of growth and sector improvements through research, education and communication.



**STA President Paul Gillen greets WCTA members at the opening ceremonies of the association's 49th Annual Conference and Trade Show in Victoria, BC.**

*Photo: Richard Elkie, Rain Designs.*

There will be more to follow on this. Then the recent Ontario Turfgrass Symposium (OTS) at the University of Guelph. A very special "thank you" to our sponsors, guest speakers and the committee for making this event so successful. Be sure to read the OTS Highlight article – "Climate Change and Turfgrass" – this issue's cover story. With our weather this winter, it is timely.

Our annual general meeting was held at Guelph during the OTS. The apathy of the membership was evident; the lack of attendance disheartening. This is your association and there are a number of people who give freely of their time and expertise for the benefit of all members. If you have suggestions for a better date, time or forum, email them to [info@sportsturfassociation.com](mailto:info@sportsturfassociation.com) with the subject line 'AGM'. We welcome your comments. At the meeting we said goodbye to long serving directors Rick Lane and Dave Chapman – thanks to each of you for your contribution. At the same time we welcomed Terry Henderson to the board and look forward to sharing his enthusiasm. We are also pleased to salute Gord Horseman as the new Atlantic Canada director. Gord's passion for this industry will serve all of us well. Thanks to Ben Tymchyshyn for volunteering to serve as Treasurer.

A reminder that May 1 is the deadline for applications for the R. W. Sheard scholarship. Details and an application form are available on-line or through the office.

We have scheduled the Sports Turf Management and Maintenance Course at the University of Guelph from April 30 to May 3. This is the level 1 introduction to the subject and one of three courses required for the Parks & Open Space Professional Training Program. Again, details are available on-line or through the office.

Plans for our 25th Anniversary Field Day are being finalized. Watch for details!

The 2012 membership invoices are in the mail. These are due May 1 – please ensure that your renewal is sent in promptly.

Finally, we say goodbye to our long serving newsletter designer Joy Black and welcome, with this edition, Jackie Ranahan. Jackie is keen to hear any suggestions and ideas that will make this communication vehicle absolutely the best that it can be.

That's a wrap for me for this issue. Stay involved, and let us know if we can do anything to make your association better for you.

# Sports Turf Association Elects 2012/2013 Officers and Directors

**GUELPH, ON.** Members of the Sports Turf Association (STA) elected the 2012/2013 officers and directors at the annual meeting held during the recent Ontario Turfgrass Symposium.

Returning to the board for a new term are president Paul Gillen, past president Gord Dol/Dol Turf Restoration, secretary Andrew Gaydon/Vanden Bussche Irrigation, together with incumbent directors Bob Kennedy/Sports Turf Management Solutions, Ken Pavely/Dufferin LawnLife, Paul Turner/G.C. Duke Equipment, Ben Tymchyshyn/MMM Group and Dennis Wale/City of Brantford. Joining the board is director Terry Henderson/City of Guelph.

Others currently serving the association are vice president Tennessee Propedo/City of Hamilton, and directors Bill Clausen/University of Guelph, Jason Inwood/City of Vaughan and John D'Ovidio and David Warden, both of the City of Mississauga. We express our appreciation to departing treasurer Rick Lane/City of St. Catharines and director David Chapman/City of Toronto who have provided immeasurable contribution and support for many years.

In accordance with the STA Constitution and By-Laws the board filled vacancies in its membership at its first meeting on March 20, 2012. Ben Tymchyshyn/MMM Group was appointed treasurer and Gorden Horsman/City of Moncton appointed director until the next annual meeting of the association.

## NEW & RETURNING MEMBERS

**Jim Althouse**  
City of Cornwall, ON

**James St. John**  
City of Greater Sudbury, ON

**Caleb Gibbons**  
Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo  
Fort McMurray, AB

**Steve Bendo**  
Stantec Consulting Ltd.  
Cambridge, ON

**Scott Wentworth**  
Scott Wentworth Landscape Group Ltd.  
Picton, ON

**Diane Matichuk**  
Civitas Architecture Inc.  
Ottawa, ON

**John Graham**  
Graham Agriservices  
Port Hope, ON

**Robert Heggie**  
BMO Field  
Toronto, ON

**Henry Kortekaas**  
Henry Kortekaas & Associates  
Pickering, ON

**Sean Moher**  
Manderley Turf Products  
Ottawa, ON



### STA Board of Directors

**MARCH 20, 2012.** (L-R) Bob Kennedy, Ben Tymchyshyn, Dennis Wale, Dave Warden, Tennessee Propedo, Ken Pavely, Andrew Gaydon, Lee Huether, Paul Turner, Terry Henderson, Paul Gillen, Gorden Horsman (inset) joined via weblink.

Absent from photo:  
Bill Clausen, Gord Dol, John D'Ovidio, Jason Inwood, Eric Lyons.

## Odds & Ends...

### TURF TRADES EMPLOYMENT ADS

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

### 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.

Rerum  
Cognoscere  
Causas



Our roots run 25 years deep.

January 7, 1987

Dear :

In discussion with a few colleagues, there seems to be sufficient interest to indicate the possibility of forming a "Sports Turf Association for Ontario".

We would like to have a brainstorming session to discuss this opportunity with various professionals and associations. With the increased use of existing facilities plus the high cost to insure against injury, we see a need for an organization that would cover field sports at all levels.

The session will be held at the University of Guelph Arboretum Centre Board Room on February 11, 1987, at 2:00 p.m.

If you wish to attend, please reply to Mike J. Bladon, Grounds Department, no later than January 31, or telephone 519-824-4120, Extension 3460.

Sincerely,

M. J. Bladon  
Assistant Head  
Grounds Department

We had our cake and ate it too at the 2012 Annual General Meeting, held within days of the actual 25th anniversary of that historic gathering at the University of Guelph when the roots of the Sports Turf Association were established.

### Sports Turf Association Seeks Safer Playing Fields

The newly formed Sports Turf Association is dedicated to safer and better playing fields, says Mike Bladon, interim chairman of the fledgling association. The organization will collect and disseminate educational, practical and scientific insights related to safer and better turf, and develop and co-ordinate co-operative projects in education and research. It will also work closely with existing organizations that have an interest in better sports fields or public turf facilities, says Bladon.

After several months of informal discussions among turf users and managers, a steering committee was formed at a recent meeting at the University of Guelph and with constituting in attendance represented a broad spectrum of the turf industry in Ontario: golf course superintendents, sports facility managers, consultants, the international Lawn Institute, university researchers, parks experts, government officials, sod producers and grounds maintenance personnel.

Of particular concern to many of those at the meeting was the need to minimize and avoid injury to those using athletic facilities, school yards and parks.

### RAIDERS ANNOUNCE MOVE FROM COLISEUM

Al Davis, the owner of the Los Angeles Raiders, has never been afraid to fight the National Football League or local governments when it comes to the success of his team. He beat the NFL and he beat the city of Oakland and he is about to beat the Los Angeles Coliseum Commission.

When his team completes its ten-year contract with the Coliseum in 1991, Davis is moving the Raiders to their own stadium to be constructed in Inwood, a city 25 miles northeast of central Los Angeles. For more than a year, Davis has been battling with the Coliseum Commission over details that are important to the profitability of an NFL franchise. Agreements he thought had been reached with previous commissions...

tract does opening up the possibility that Davis will move the practice facility and headquarters to Inwood. The team also holds practice camps in Oxnard, CA.

### SPORTS TURF ASSOCIATION LAUNCHED IN CANADA

After numerous organizational meetings at the University of Guelph, Ontario, the Sports Turf Association (of Canada) became reality this summer. Michael Bladon of the University of Guelph has been elected president. The organization is busy planning its first annual conference and publishing its first newsletter.

objective of the new group, to improve the safety and athletic facilities by collecting scientific, educational knowledge. Cooperative research projects will be solutions to turf problems.

STA is open to anyone safe sports turf. "We in the turf industry in its Bladon, "including professional sports, golf clubs, community colleges and sod producers." STA the sports of field hockey, soccer, rugby, softball, golf. Bladon invites interested to contact him, 185 Guelph, Ontario 20.

contributed more than \$3 million to renovate the stadium to keep the event in the city. Construction is scheduled to begin in November. The city wants to have most of the renovation completed by the 1988 series. CBS Sports will broadcast the event for the first time next year which will increase the national exposure of the event.

City officials estimate the event contributes more than \$12 million to the local economy each year. The Kansas City Royals AAA farm club also plays its home games at the stadium.

### LANDMARK PURCHASES PALM BEACH POLO CLUB

Landmark Land Company, Inc., developer of PGA West and La Quinta Golf and Tennis Resort in La Quinta, CA, has purchased the Palm Beach Polo & Country Club in Wellington, FL. The posh polo club includes 11 polo fields, two 18-hole golf courses, 17 tennis courts and a championship croquet field.

In the past, Landmark has built its own golf course/real estate developments. The only other established property Landmark has purchased is Mission Hills in Rancho Mirage, CA. The company is already planning improvements to Palm Beach Polo & Country Club. "The first thing they did when they completed the purchase," says golf course superintendent James Branstrom, "was increase my budget by 20 percent." Gould Inc., the previous owner, had been trying to sell the club for almost two years. "We had been putting off buying some equipment," admits Branstrom. "Now we can get back to business."

Landmark's courses are famous for major tour events, both PGA and LPGA. The two courses at Palm Beach, one designed by professional golfer Jerry Pate and the other by golf course architect George Fazio, will probably follow the Landmark tournament tradition.

### ST. LOUIS SOCCER PARK HOSTS OLYMPIC MATCH

The United States National Soccer Team will play an Olympic Qualification Match against Trinidad and Tobago at St. Louis Soccer Park.



STA/CGSA Conference, 1989

1989

1987

COLLEGE

ularity and sponsor the National College Athletic Association (NCAA) and the steps to improve city-owned Rosenblatt Stadium. The College World Series has been held in Rosenblatt Stadium.

# CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

## The Agenda

### Sports Turf Association of Ontario Discussion Meeting

February 11, 1987  
Arboretum Centre  
University of Guelph  
Guelph, Ontario

- Welcome and Introductions
- 'A Sports Turf Association of Ontario' Opening Remarks:  
Pat Tucker and  
Mike Bladon, Grounds Department,  
University of Guelph
- Discussion
  - Do we see a need for a Sports Turf Association?
  - If so, what would be the objectives of such an association?
  - Who should be members?
  - Should there be an affiliation with another group?
  - Who would volunteer to form an interim executive?
- An Action for the Future
  - Interim executive
  - Meeting time and place
- Adjournment

## It Was Resolved

- All those at the meeting following the opening remarks were in agreement that a Sports Turf Association is needed now, and that it not, be limited to Ontario.
- The objectives/goals of the association are to be similar to the Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA)
  - Disseminate available information to Sports Managers
  - Research
  - Education: field days and seminars
  - Develop standards and guidelines for safety aspects
- There should be different membership categories and keep as broad as possible
- Suggestion of affiliation with STMA. Also an offer from CGCSA to dispense information through their magazine *Greenmaster* and to join them at their conference in Toronto in March 1988. Sod producers also very interested in working together.
- A volunteer Steering Committee was formed consisting of Mike Bladon, Annette Anderson, Uwe Sehmerau, Bruce Calhoun, and Bob Allen.
- Action for the future to use a Steering Committee to do ground work and present a report. The report to include all aspects of the formation of the association.

## Conference

The first Sports Turf Association conference was presented in cooperation with the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association, March 9, 1988 during the Canadian Turfgrass Conference. With 100 people in attendance, the event, which was to become an annual one, was firmly established. This conference has through the years, morphed into the Ontario Turfgrass Symposium (OTS) that we know today, presented by the Guelph Turfgrass Institute, the Nursery Sod Growers Association of Ontario, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, the Ontario Recreation Facilities Association, the Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation, the Professional Lawn Care Association of Ontario, the Sports Turf Association, and the Centre for Open Learning and Educational Support, University of Guelph.

Our roots run deep and 2012 marks this quarter-century milestone. We salute all those who envisioned the Sports Turf Association 25 years ago, who through their dedication, determination and much hard work not only brought the association to fruition but established a foundation for sustainability. And the countless others who followed, with service on the board of directors, on committees, providing educational presentations, writing articles, sponsoring, exhibiting, advertising, and just spreading the word. And those who participated in the professional development and educational events and supported the association with their membership. We acknowledge you.

1999

2000

2001

2003

For twenty-five years the Sports Turf Association has been dedicated to the promotion of better, safer sports turf.

**That commitment continues.**



2012

OTS 2012 attracted nearly 500 delegates, speakers and sponsors to participate in more than 30 sessions of general and focused streams of education. Details for OTS 2013 will be available later this summer.

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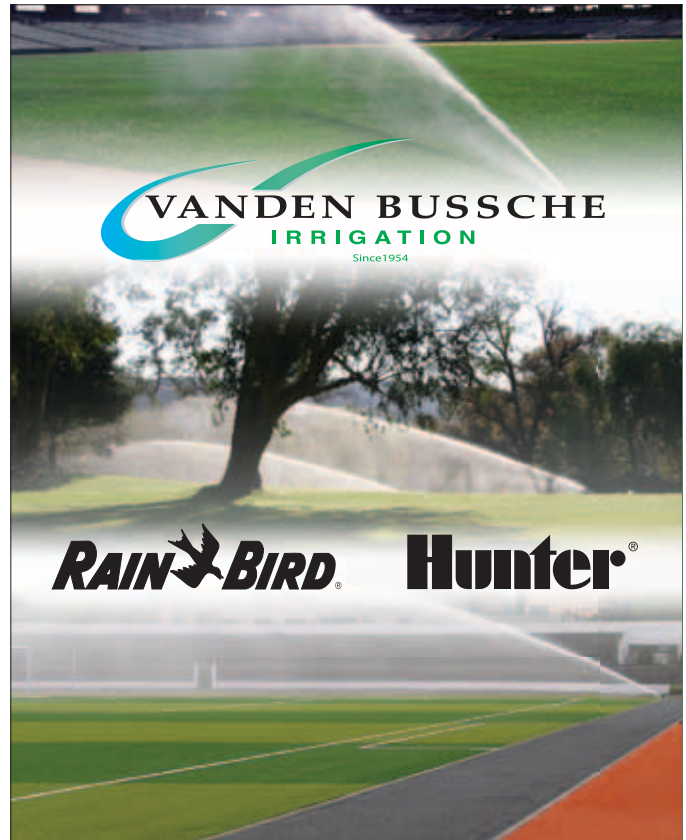
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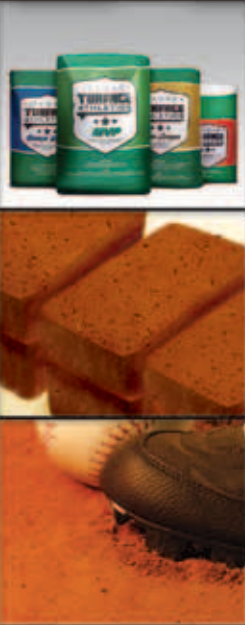
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*“Every spring is the only spring,  
a perpetual astonishment.”*  
— ELLIS PETERS

## STA SCHOLARSHIP May 1 Application Deadline

The Sports Turf Association (STA) established a scholarship program in 1993. The STA Robert W. Sheard Scholarship (\$1,000) is funded through STA membership fees and is intended to assist students with the cost of tuition, books and related expenses.



The STA is dedicated to the promotion of better, safer sports turf through innovation, education and professional programs. If you or someone you know could benefit from the Robert W. Sheard Scholarship, please submit an application. Scholarship policies, criteria and an application form can be found online at [www.sportsturfassociation.com](http://www.sportsturfassociation.com).

# Event Calendar

ASSOCIATION EVENTS ARE HIGHLIGHTED IN GREEN

**April 30-May 3. 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](http://www.sportsturfassociation.com)

**May 1. Sports Turf Association Robert W. Sheard Scholarship Deadline.**  
519-763-9431, [www.sportsturfassociation.com](http://www.sportsturfassociation.com)

**August 14. Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation Annual Fundraising Golf Tournament**  
MAGNA Golf Club, Aurora, ON. 519-824-4120 x 56149  
[www.otrf.ca](http://www.otrf.ca)

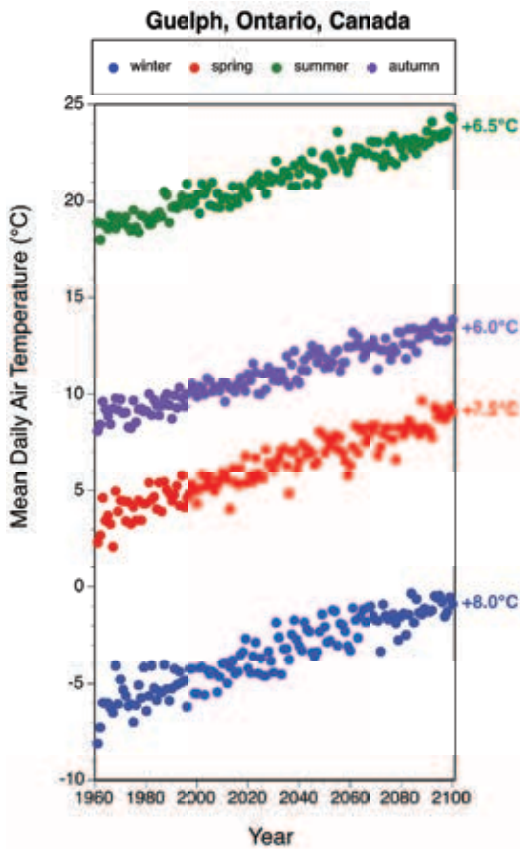
**September. Sports Turf Association 25th Annual Field Day**  
Watch for details!  
519-763-9431, [www.sportsturfassociation.com](http://www.sportsturfassociation.com)

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



## Climate Change & Turfgrass

*continued from page 1*



**Figure 1.** Average daily temperature by season for Guelph, Ontario, Canada (43.54N 80.25W) from 1961 to 2100, according to Environment Canada's Canadian Global Circulation Model (CGCM3T47) for a high greenhouse gas emissions scenario (A1B). For more information or to examine prediction for other locations, please visit <http://yukon.cccsn.ca/?page=dd-gcm>.

Climate change is caused by an accumulation of greenhouse gases in our atmosphere, and while they are all important, we biologists are particularly interested in carbon dioxide because that gas has a direct effect on plant growth. At least in cool season plants (also known as C3 plants) increases in the atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide lead directly to increased rates of photosynthesis, the process by which plants convert carbon dioxide and water into sugar and oxygen. Higher rates of photosynthesis mean that plants grow faster and larger. Indeed, your colleagues working in the greenhouse industry have known this for a long time. In that industry it is common to 'flood' greenhouses with extra carbon dioxide to stimulate plant growth.

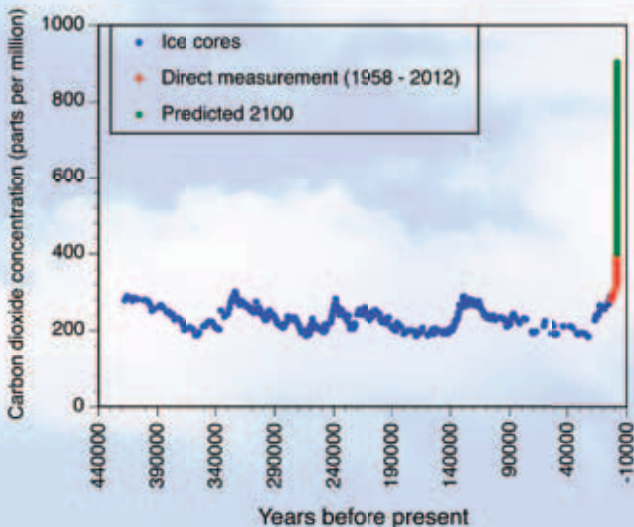
This graph visually depicts why climate scientists are so worried. At our current carbon dioxide concentration of 391 parts per million (ppm), we are already more than 100 ppm (40%) above any carbon dioxide concentration we have seen in the past 450,000 years up to the start of the industrial revolution, and we will certainly increase that concentration over the next 100 years; the question is by how much? That will depend on whether we get serious about reducing our carbon emissions and increasing our carbon sequestration, but the best guess is anywhere from about 550 to 1000 ppm of carbon dioxide by the end of this century.

Over the years, the turfgrass industry has developed many grass options for climates that are warmer and dryer than Canada, and so adapting turf applications to cope with changes in temperature and precipitation will probably not be such a difficult task. On the other

## SO WEEDS MIGHT, OR MIGHT NOT, BE A BIGGER PROBLEM IN THE FUTURE.

Figure 2 shows how carbon dioxide has changed over the past 450,000 years, over the recent past (since 1958), and what we expect to happen in the near future.

hand, rising concentrations of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere represent an interesting challenge, and perhaps opportunity, for the turfgrass industry.



## OTS HIGHLIGHT

**Presented February, 2012**  
**Guelph, Ontario.**

**Figure 2.** Carbon dioxide concentrations derived from studying the air bubbles trapped in ancient ice in Antarctica (blue symbols), measured directly from the atmosphere (red symbols, only available since 1958), or predicted for the future (green symbols).