



# International Turfgrass



November 2002

The Newsletter of the International Turfgrass Society

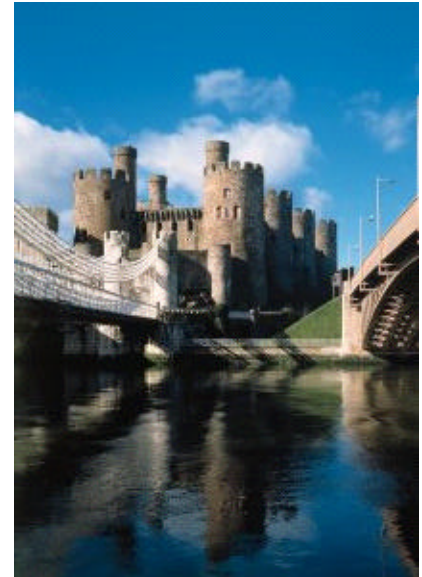
## President's Message

*Bill Adams, ITS President*

The 10th International Turfgrass Research Conference (ITRC) in Wales still seems a long way ahead, but the Toronto meeting is already one year behind us. Fear is starting to build! However, the Conference website is up and running at <http://www.aber.ac.uk/itrc2005/> and the organisation is beginning to be put in place. More news on this front next time.

The Soccer World Cup is over and Brazil are champions. Germany played their best game of the competition in the final but couldn't overcome the South American team who played with usual flair. Both host countries had a successful tournament and Japan and South Korea deserve to be congratulated on the organisation of the competition and on the provision of high quality playing surfaces. I hope we get technical information on the pitches used in due course.

The World Cup is the greatest worldwide spectator sporting event played on natural turf. In England another major event was played on natural turf - the Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Championship. Despite these public exposures of turf it is under challenge on more than one front. In the amenity area, almost all gardening programmes in the UK show experts replacing domestic lawns with either wood decking or hard landscaping. The performance of synthetic turf is being improved all the time and there will be increasing pressure for its use for top level soccer in particular. Not least amongst advocates will be owners and managers of premier 'closed' stadia who have discovered belatedly that high quality turf is not sustainable when its light and ventilation requirements are disregarded. Wherever our interests lie in turfgrass science we shall, in future, have to be more prepared to provide reasoned answers to the question 'why natural turf?'



Conway Castle in North Wales

## Treasurer's Report

*John Cisar, ITS Treasurer*

We have begun collecting dues for the new four-year cycle. Recently dues invoices were mailed to ITS members. If you have already paid your dues, thank you. To date, over half of our members have done so. If you have not had the opportunity to do so, please use the application form printed in this newsletter for your convenience. Note that ITS Membership

*Continued on page 2*

**Treasurer's Report**  
*continued from page 1*

covers the current 2002-2005 four-year cycle and provides valuable membership services including a copy of the 10th ITRC journal, newsletters and updates on the Conference and ITS activities, and any ITS membership Conference registration discounts. The Membership Dues are \$200.00 (US\$) for ITS members and \$1000.00 (US\$) for Sustaining members.

Please remit your dues in US dollars either by check, or by American Express credit card. Please update any changes in your personal/professional status so we can update ITS records.

On behalf of the International Turfgrass Society, welcome to the Society and thank you for your support.

International Turfgrass  
The Newsletter of the  
International Turfgrass Society

Editor: Dr. George H. Snyder  
Layout & Design: K. Krawchuk  
WWW formatting: K. Carey

With thanks and appreciation  
to all who contributed to this  
newsletter.

**FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) to the Treasurer**

1. Can dues be wired through banking services?

Unfortunately no. Wire transfers have proven to be costly transactions for the Society and at times it has been very difficult to track the wire transfer to the member.

2. Is VISA accepted as a dues paying method?

American Express is our only credit card payment option. As a small group we can not get a VISA or MASTERCARD account set up unless we go through a secondary party which results in increased costs.

3. Why the dues increase?

This is the first dues increase since the 7th ITRC in 1993. Increasing size and printing costs of the journal (which is paid through dues) since 1993 in addition to increased society costs have necessitated this action. For example, the Society now bears the full cost of the newsletter and tax preparation. In the past 12 years, we had very generous support from the Toro Company for those services. Now in order to keep our valuable Tax-exempt status and communication service to our members, we need to bear those costs as a Society. The past two journals had two hard cover volumes that affected costs as well as editorial costs and conference invoiced costs. We need to budget for anticipated costs for the new journal and any 10th ITRC-related costs.

4. I am retiring from my company half way through the membership cycle. Can my membership be transferred to my replacement?

ITS memberships are for individuals and cannot be transferred.

5. Is there a reduced dues schedule for students or retirees?

There is no provision for reduced dues. Prorated over four years the annual dues amounts to just \$50.00 per year. It is anticipated that students will at some point during the cycle, graduate into the profession. Members who retire still receive the benefits of membership such as publishing in the journal, receiving the journal, newsletter, and obtaining any reduced membership registration fees offered by the 10th ITRC. All in all, ITS membership is quite a good value.

## IXth ITRC Wrap-Up

By Pam Charbonneau, ITS Past President

It is almost a year ago to date since the IXth International Turfgrass Research Conference. Those of you who did attend will be interested to know that this summer the City of Toronto outside workers are on strike. This means that there is no garbage pick up, no ferries to Toronto Island, etc.. We are just pleased that this is happening this summer and not last summer. Toronto would not have made a good impression on you if you had to walk by rotting garbage during your stay.

I hope that all conference attendees have received the conference proceedings by now. The Board of Directors elected to produce an electronic copy only of the proceedings. Each of you that attended the conference should have received the proceedings on disk as a pdf file. If you have not received yours, please contact the ITS Secretary, Dr. Ken Carey, and he will make sure that you get a copy. His email address is [ken@gti.uoguelph.ca](mailto:ken@gti.uoguelph.ca). All attendees should also have received a complimentary CD with some digital photo highlights of the conference courtesy of Syngenta. This is a very nice memento of the conference.

I wanted to present you with the summary statistics related to the conference (Table 1). Many of these statistics can also be found in the Historian's Report by Dr. James B Beard in the conference proceedings.

Summary of Participation at the IXth ITRC, July 15-20, 2001, Toronto, Canada

Number of Conference Attendees	388
Number of Countries Represented	23
Number of Papers Presented	117 oral 106 poster
Number of Pages in Journal	1061

Lastly, I want to thank the IXth ITRC Host Committee for all their hard work and dedication in putting together a world class conference in Toronto, our world class city. On behalf of the IXth ITRC Host Committee, I would like to thank all of the conference presenters, attendees, family members and guests for making our conference such a success.

## Newsletter Editor's Note:

George Snyder

The International Turfgrass Society is embarking on another four-year odyssey that will conclude with the 10th International Turfgrass Research Conference in Wales. Since we get together as a group only once each four years, and really only a handful of times during an entire career, the ITS Newsletter is our way of keeping in contact with both Society events and with the activities of our colleagues around the world. We have reports from 5 countries in this issue, and information about both our most recent conference and the one to come. All members are encouraged to contribute short articles about turfgrass-related activities in their country for future issues of the ITS News-letter.

Ken Carey, ITS Secretary, has redesigned and updated the ITS webpage

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/GTI/itsweb/>

## Reflections on the Vancouver Post-Conference Tour

*Karen Williams, University of Florida, USA*

It sure doesn't seem possible a year has passed since the meeting in Toronto and post conference tour in Vancouver. Toronto brought us together for a meeting of the minds to hear of the latest turfgrass research results and compare techniques, but Vancouver was indeed a special way to end this gathering. Our diverse group represented 5 continents (Mr. & Mrs. Michael Russell from Australia, Mr. & Mrs. Otto Weilenmann from Switzerland, Mr. & Mrs. Carol Muller from Chile, Mr. & Mrs. Akira Akada from Japan and myself from the United States) and was given the royal treatment by our tour hosts: Bob and Charlotte Wick and Dr. Brian Holl. They went out of their way to show us the city of Vancouver and parts of British Columbia that would be hard to beat if going it on your own.



Two of the nicest people you would ever want to meet, Bob and Charlotte Wick.

Our look into Vancouver began with an in depth personal tour by a University of British Columbia student at the Museum of Anthropology, which set the stage for learning about the native culture of the area. We received a special tour of University of British Columbia's Botanical Garden where we learned of the flora and fauna of

the region—the University's food garden was especially impressive, where much of the staple fruits and vegetables grown there are given to homeless shelters. Ah, but you are thinking: "What about the turfgrass—didn't you see any of that?" Of course we did! We received an insider's look when visiting three of the regions top golf courses: Capilano Golf and Country Club, where long standing traditions are embraced in a beautiful mountain setting, Cordova Bay Golf Club and Victoria Golf Club, one of the oldest (established in 1893) courses in North America.



Renovations were underway at Capilano Golf and Country Club when we visited the green.

Many thanks to the superintendents of these clubs for giving us a firsthand look at Canadian turf management in action. The Western Canada Turfgrass Association's (WCTA) Field Day and trip to Safeco Field in Seattle provided the group with more knowledge of the area's turfgrass industry.

The next leg of our tour included a ferry ride over to Victoria where spectacular views of pine forest islands could only to be outdone by our visit to Butchart Gardens where beautiful turf lawns frame picture perfect flower gardens—it was like walking through a water color painting. These gardens are a "must see" for anyone going to Vancouver/ Victoria, they truly do leave you awe struck at what Mother Nature and

man can do together. Our last day in the city of Vancouver gave us the opportunity to see the top of Grouse Mountain where we all enjoyed a relaxing lunch at, of all places, the Grouse Nest! The view of the city below allowed me to recap just how much I got to know and see of this beautiful area in a week's time. Our trip however, was not over just yet—our gracious hosts arranged a dinner boat cruise in Coal Harbour where we all met up with many of the people we were introduced to during our stay. Our week had come to a close and the true highlights for me were not just the new and beautiful places but also the people I had come to know in this intimate group. I take this opportunity to thank my hosts Bob and Charlotte Wick, Brian Holl, Paul Stevens and his wife (for a lovely reception at their home), Mary Lou Wilmott, the WCTA and the ITS. I must end by saying a special thank you to Bob, who got up at 4:00 in the morning to give me a ride to the airport—now that's a special host!!



L to R: Otto & Elizabeth Weilenmann, Mrs. & Mr. Akada, Charlotte & Bob Wick, MaryLou Wilmott, Karen Williams, Claudia & Carol Muller and Mrs. & Mr. Michael Russell.

## **Upcoming International Meetings of Interest to Turfgrass Scientists**

### **1st International Conference on Turfgrass Management and Sciences for Sports Fields**

Dr. Panayiotis Nektarios of the Agricultural University of Athens, Greece, wishes to announce that the 1st International Conference on Turfgrass Management and Science for Sport Fields will be held in Athens, Greece, June 2-7, 2003. The conference is under the auspices of International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS). The conference coincides with the preparations for the 2004 Olympic Games, for which turfgrasses constitute the main surface for many of the outdoor sports and activities. The knowledge that will derive from the conference will be an essential tool for turfgrass establishment and management for the Olympic Games. Information about this conference can be found at <http://www.turfgrass-conference.aua.gr>

### **Molecular Breeding of Forage and Turf**

Dr. Andrew Hopkins announces the Third International Symposium on Molecular Breeding of Forage and Turf, May 18-22, 2003, in Dallas, Texas, and Ardmore, Oklahoma, USA. The conference is designed to bring together those involved in the breeding and molecular biology of forage grasses and turf to present research as well as to discuss and exchange ideas. Previous conferences have been held in Japan and Australia, and the next one will be held in Europe in 2005. Additional information about the conference can be found on the website: [www.noble.org/mbft2003](http://www.noble.org/mbft2003), or by contacting Dr. Hopkins at tel: 580-224-6850, USA.

## News From Around The World

### AUSTRALIA

*By Ian Chivers*

Australia is suffering from one of its occasional really bad droughts. While being short of water is not a novelty to anyone in the driest continent, this drought has put a whole new order of magnitude on that dryness. All States are affected and our television screens are full of images of failed crops over many thousands of square kilometres and of stock being fed on roadsides.

As far as its impact on turf, this El Nino induced drought is bringing its own set of problems. Virtually all country towns are on severely reduced water availability and that includes the local golf course, sportsfield, or park. Reductions of 75 to 80% of normal water availability are not uncommon. Throughout much of the country, home lawns are not permitted to be irrigated by anything other than hand-held hoses and not at all in some other cases. The major cities are better off but water restrictions are also very likely for them within the year.

It is no wonder that we place a high degree of importance on research into means of getting better water utilisation. Queensland and Western Australian research has focussed on learning the capacities of common turfgrasses to tolerate drought and how best to manage them for that purpose. Other work in Queensland has looked at better use of recycled water and the various tolerances to its use.

There has been considerable work in several States on developing equipment and techniques for monitoring soil moisture with simple probes or sensors. This understanding

is now finding application in other countries as well as Australia for many turf surfaces.

What is certain is that when the drought ends, and we do have to remind ourselves that it will end one day, the grasses that will immediately recover are the local native grasses. Grasses such as *Bothriochloa macra*, *Zoysia macrantha*, *Microlaena stipoides*, *Sporobolus virginicus* and *Austrodanthonia geniculata* have survived so far and will continue to do so. They will have proven once again that they have an incredible capacity to tolerate very severe drought and at the same time produce good quality turf.

### AUSTRALIA

*By John Neylan*

There was a good contingent of Australians at the ITS Conference in Toronto and the opinions were unanimous that it was extremely well organised and a credit to the local organising committee. The journal is an excellent production, and as always a very important document for research and education purposes.

We had a range of interests amongst the Australians including, educators, consultants, industry representatives, applied researchers and superintendents. Everybody found some topic of particular interest. At a golf course superintendents meeting following the ITS Conference, three of us spoke to the group and while there was some commonality in the presentations, there were also a diverse range of specific interests. This confirms the strength and value of the Conference and the wide appeal that it has to the turf industry.

Since the ITS conference we have been fortunate to have Dr. David Huff from Penn State University in Australia on sabbatical. David has increased the local interest in his *Poa annua* program and made a number of collections from Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania and New South Wales. The Australian Golf Course Superintendents Association and local state Associations assisted David in visiting these states and making the collections. All the turf managers that came in contact with David enjoyed his easy style of presentation and friendly manner. The *Poa annua* collection is being maintained at the University of Melbourne, Burnley Campus where it is planned to have a postgraduate student undertake further evaluations on the plant material.

With regards to the next ITS Conference in Wales, we are hoping to encourage more golf course superintendents and turf managers to attend and to take the opportunity to inspect European and British turf facilities and attend the British Open.

## AUSTRIA

*By Alexander J. Richter*

We are planning the Pre-Conference Tour for the 2005 ITRC. I will soon be driving this tour with my car from the Pisa / Florence / Venice area to Salzburg and Vienna to learn more about the various hotels and points of interest along the way.

FIFA is recommending artificial turf for stadiums at present, and the people of the industry hope organisations like the ITS will speak clearly about the benefits of natural turf in such occasions. Could be interesting to hear what's the opinion of the ITS members about that. I would like for there to be a participation of ITS at the FOOTBALL EXPO in Cannes 01/2003 to lobby there for natural turfgrass in stadiums.

The 32nd International Turfgrass Colloquium will take place September 4-7 in Papendal, near Arnheim in the Netherlands. It is organized by ISA Sport.

Among the presentations will be:

- 1) Mr. Eric van Swinderen: "General information about research for sports in the Netherlands"
- 2) Mr. Jos Koolen: "Sprinkling decisions derived from turf and weather information"
- 3) Mr. Arthur Wolleswinkel: "Water"
- 4) Mr. Herwig Monster: "About the use of a subsurface aeration and irrigation system at St. Jacob Stadium, Basel, Switzerland"
- 5) Mr. W. Boring: "Comments about new Irrigation systems"
- 6) Mr. Alessandro De Luca: "Characterizations and drought resistance of *Lolium perenne* and *Festuca arundinace* cultivars for a mediterranean climate"
- 7) Mr. Paul Baader: "Environmental studies on Sportsturf facilities"
- 8) Mr. Rainer Preiomann: "Key principles of restauration work on golf courses"
- 9) Mr. R. Hohndel: "New N-slow release compound for turf"
- 10) Mr. Donald Gabriels: "Player conditions for playability of grass football fields"

## CHILE

*By Carol Muller*

May I introduce myself? This is a country like California but upside down, with the desert in the north and the cold region in the south. But the Andean Range in any place of the country can behave like being in high latitudes further south, so we can use any type of turfgrass seeds depending

on the altitude (meters above the sea level).

Golfing was introduced very early in the past century by the British, starting in a place called Valparaíso (U.S.A has one place called like this in the west part of Florida near Pensacola). In those days, it was played in the actual place of Viña del Mar (the biggest summer resort of Chile) in a joint venture with an hippodrome, rugby fields, lawn hockey pitches and soccer fields (the most popular sport, called in spanish football = fútbol). Later, with the creation of the Prince of Wales Country Club and several other clubs, the sport of golf developed all along the country.

To have an idea of the amount of golf courses in Chile you can navigate on [www.chilegolf.cl](http://www.chilegolf.cl) and the “links” on the pages will bring you up to countries like Argentine, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador and Paraguay. Chile has 51 golf courses but not all are made of turf, many of the Andean-mining ones have still sand and they use a plastic mat to play.

Soccer in the very north is played in a Kikuyugrass carpet and irrigated with drinking water due to salinity problems. New stadiums or arena are seldom constructed. In the center of the country we can see some improvement of the conditions. New American-style golf courses are willing to receive players in La Serena, Marbella, Cachagua, Rocas de Santo Domingo, Santiago and Concepción, all places with very different climates. Concerning education, the priority plan is to teach how to irrigate properly. Rainbird and Hunter are doing the best, offering courses in an easy-to-go way, as well as giving certification for different levels. Extramural diplomas on turfgrass management are presently being offered by the University of Chile and Catholic University of Chile for leveling up the instruction in

this field. Since 1975, the University of Chile also offers an elective course (18 week program) to students belonging to the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, and sometimes also gives extension lectures on the subject for outsiders.

In 1999 the World Amateur Championship – PGA/USGA/A&G was held in three golf courses in Chile, and the past year a Man-PGA Championship was held in Buenos Aires (Argentine), which may be some kind of partner in the 2009 ITRC.

With the endorsement of the international soccer board Chile has two new plastic fields. Probably in 2006, in Russia, a European Championship will be held in a plastic carpet for trial. San Ciro in Milan (Italy), is going to be changed to plastic the next season... so we have to fight back hard to show the research and defend our niche.

Chile, since 1987, has a joint venture for producing grass seed in the south, due to the pressure made by the breeders in Oregon because of the ban on field fires. Perennial Ryegrass and *Festuca arundinaceae* are mainly tested. Today, the University of La Frontera (Temuco, 8 hours southward of Santiago) has made another agreement with governmental-private sponsorship to make a good approach to produce seed under license for American companies, and to try the new technology for avoiding the use of activated charcoal in the very beginning of the crop. On the other hand, many of the companies delivering seed to Chile are giving away their own seed for NTEP-like trials involving European, New Zealand, and American seeds.

At present, nematodes are beginning to be a big concern, and a program of analysis for different soils is on its way. Perhaps in some years more we can have a complete map of nematode performance in greens and sport fields.



## GERMANY

By Dr. Klaus G. Müller-Beck  
President, German Turfgrass Society

### Impressions of the IX. ITRC in Toronto

Some members of the German Turfgrass Society take part in the ninth ITS Research Convention in Toronto, Canada during July of 2001.



German delegation from left to right:  
Dr. R. Hähndel, Dipl. Ing. C. Schumann, Dr. F. Altpeter, Dipl. Agr. Biol. W. Prämaßing, Dr. K. Müller-Beck, Dr. M. Schlosser

In our view, the conference was organized extremely well for participants, since all events took place within the hotel, resulting in short distances in between relevant sessions. For catching the audience's attention, representatives of the host country, Canada, introduced the turf research of the various provinces from coast to coast.

It was impressive to see the young scientist Dr. Bingru Huang of Rutgers University explaining trends in the field of turf research. Thus, for example, open questions arise in the area of stress factors such as aridness and coldness in respect of biochemical changes through hormonal regulation or biophysical changes. Research regarding the behaviour of roots under heat stress gains major importance; here it is Cytokinin which is defined as a sensor

signal for heat stress. A major field will open up with future cultivation programs making use of biotechnology as well as possibilities of genetic transformation. Dr. Huang closed her presentation predicting new turf types to be available within the future.

One highlight of the presentation was the "online-integration" of the internet whilst presenting the turf courses of Z. Jiang of Rhode Island University with the aid of the relevant software <http://about.webct.com> In the future this medium increasingly is going to be used by various universities of various countries. Students are going to be involved interactively within the course-program and later on they can sit for their exams under controlled conditions.

The German papers and posters presented on the convention covered following topics:

1. F. Altpeter, Institut für Pflanzengenetik, Gatersleben
  1. "Stable genetic transformation of commercial cool season turfgrass (*Lolium perenne* L. and *Festuca rubra* L.) cultivars"
  2. "Dissection of RNA-mediated ryegrass mosaic virus resistance in fertile transgenic perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*)"
2. R. Hähndel, BASF Agrarzentrum, Limburgerhof
  - "Use of an optical sensor as a tool to evaluate N-supply of a sports turf sward"
3. W. Prämaßing, DEULA Rheinland, Kempen
  - "Changes in soil physical properties of different turfgrass soils as affected by aeration"

## Informative Turf Tours:

The “mid-conference-excursion” presented a wide spectrum of Canada’s turf scene. There was a choice in between various destinations such as the Golf Course Tour, the Sod Growers Tour or the Sports Turf Tour. A special impression was left by the visit at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute, because one had an exemplary insight into the cooperation between science, practical advice, training and application in the Turf Industry.

The German Turfgrass Society wishes Bill Adams, ITS’s new President, a lucky hand in leading ITS’s fate within the coming four years.

## NEW ZEALAND

*By Dr Richard Gibbs  
Scientific Services Manager  
New Zealand Sports Turf Institute*

The New Zealand Sports Turf Institute recently hosted a forum to foster an open exchange of information on new technologies available for the construction and management of Australasia’s leading outdoor, multi-use venues. The programme was structured to encourage active debate and participation by invited delegates. Issues covered included shading problems and their management, artificial light requirements for turf, stadium architecture, rootzone heating, turf reinforcement and turf replacement systems. Scientific presentations were given by leading international researchers and commercial companies were also invited to present an update of their available technology. We are particularly grateful to Dr. Stephen Baker of STRI, Bingley, Dr. John Stier of the University of Wisconsin and Dr. Don Loch of Redlands Research Station in Brisbane for contributing to an excellent two days of discussion and debate. If anyone is interested in receiving the proceedings from

the above forum, they will be published in due course and you can register your interest with Lynne Cullinane on [turf@nzsti.org.nz](mailto:turf@nzsti.org.nz).

Looking further afield, if you are interested in coming down under next year, the second New Zealand Sports Turf Conference and Trade Show will be held in Auckland next year from 24-27 June 2003. This conference will be run in conjunction with the New Zealand Recreation Association’s annual conference to make what will become the largest conference of its kind ever held in New Zealand. If you are interested to find out more about this conference, please contact Brian Way on [bway@nzsti.org.nz](mailto:bway@nzsti.org.nz)

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Bill Adams  
University of Wales  
Inst. Of Biological Sciences  
Penglais, Aberystwyth  
Dyfed, Wales SY23 3DE UK  
PH: 01 970 622302  
FAX: 01 970 622307  
[Waa@aber.ac.uk](mailto:Waa@aber.ac.uk)

### **Vice-President**

Robert Carrow  
University of Georgia  
Griffin GA 30223-1797 USA  
PH: 770 228-7273  
FAX: 770 229-3215  
[rcarrow@gaes.griffin.peachnet.edu](mailto:rcarrow@gaes.griffin.peachnet.edu)

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John Cisar  
University of Florida  
Ft. Lauderdale Res. & Edu. Ctr.  
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Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33314 USA  
PH: 954 577-6336  
FAX: 954 475-4125  
[jlci@ufl.edu](mailto:jlci@ufl.edu)

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Ken Carey  
Guelph Turfgrass Institute  
University of Guelph  
Guelph, Ontario N1H 6H8 Canada  
PH: 519 824-4120 x2777  
FAX: 519 766 1704  
[ken@gti.uoguelph.ca](mailto:ken@gti.uoguelph.ca)

### **Historian**

James Beard  
1812 Shadowood  
College Station TX 77840 USA  
PH: 409 693-4066  
FAX: 409 693-4878

### **Past President**

Pam Charbonneau  
Ministry of Agriculture  
Guelph Turfgrass Institute  
328 Victoria Road South  
Guelph Ontario N1H 6H8  
Canada  
PH: 519 824-4120 x2597  
FAX: 519 766-1704  
[pcharbon@omafra.gov.on.ca](mailto:pcharbon@omafra.gov.on.ca)

### **Newsletter Editor**

George H. Snyder  
University of Florida  
Everglades Res.& Educ.Ctr.  
3200 East Palm Beach Rd.  
Belle Glade, FL 33430-4702 USA  
PH: 561 993-1574  
FAX: 561 993-1582  
[ghs@mail.ifas.ufl.edu](mailto:ghs@mail.ifas.ufl.edu)

