

THE REEL NEWS

Official Publication of:



SOUTHERN ALBERTA TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION
BOX 36011, 6449 Crowchild Tr. S.W.
Calgary, Alberta, T3E-7C6

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Volume 8, Issue 3

August 2011

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CARSTAIRS GOLF CLUB



Carstairs' Superintendent Paula Stauffer



We were fortunate to play golf at Carstairs Golf Club on a day that the weather cooperated. The golf course was immaculate, thanks to the efforts of Superintendent Paula Stauffer and her staff.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY: RICHART CRAN

A lot has happened since the last publication of this newsletter, there have been three scheduled events so I'll get right to reporting on what SATA has been up to.

In late May we were scheduled to hold our spring meeting at Henderson Lake Golf Club in Lethbridge, but unfortunately due to the wet spring weather experienced in Southern Alberta this year the meeting was rained out. Our Board of Director's gathered in Lethbridge and made the call. Thanks to Dave Wobshall and the staff of Henderson Lake for offering us the course for this event and we look forward to returning next year for our first meeting of 2012.

On June 22nd, SATA held its annual Pesticide Applicator's License Re-certification Seminar. 41 delegates gathered at Earl Grey Golf Club to take advantage of this incredible deal for four valuable continuing education credits. Thanks goes out to our three speakers; Mark Jull, Jason Pick, and Dale Overton for donating their time to help us put on this seminar. It is due to the generosity of volunteers like these that make this event possible.

In July the weather smartened up long enough for Paula Stauffer and Carstairs Golf Club to host a golf meeting. 35 members made the trip just north of Calgary to take in SATA's return to Carstairs. The wind blew but the rain stayed away and the shotgun went off with no problems. Their re-surfaced greens were in great shape and rolled great, it's always a pleasure to play this small town gem.

For our next meeting we will gather for the first time at the rural destination of The Tooth of The Dog Pound Creek Golf Course near Cremona on August 18th. Then our Annual General Meeting is set for September 27th at D'Arcy Ranch Golf Club in Okotoks. Check out this and the next newsletter for more details on these meetings.

Finally, I would like to mention that, if you haven't already, please take the time to check out the new SATA website www.sataturf.com. Many updates have been made and I hope you will take advantage of what the website offers. Any input or feedback would be helpful to help us make the website work better for you and the entire membership.

As always, I am looking forward to seeing everyone at one of the two remaining meetings of 2011.

Rick

NOTICE OF MEETING



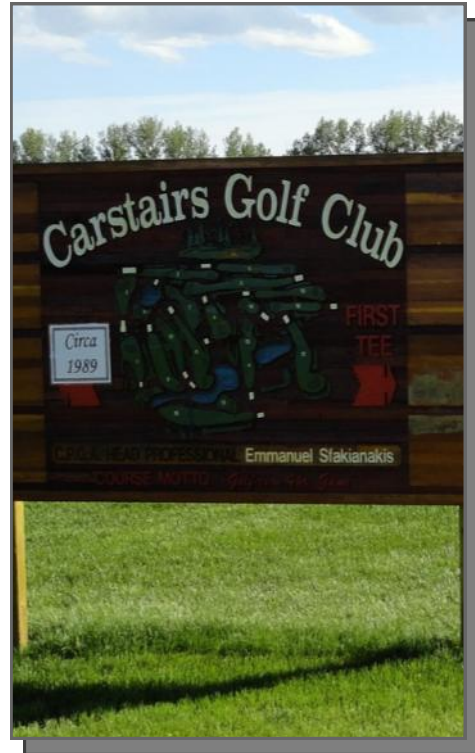
Thursday August 18,
2011
11:00 Start

**VISIT www.sataturf.com to book online or
phone Linda Swanston at (403) 537 5518**

\$30.00 Day Fee, Does not include Cart

Look for the \$7 Snips and \$3 Deuces Pot (Participation Optional)

CARSTAIRS JULY 20 GOLF MEETING



AWARDS

Ball in sand Hole #11 (Draw).....Steve Adams
 Closest to the pin Hole #14 (high hcp 16+)..... Mike Jones
 Longest Putt Hole #9 (high hcp +16)Paula Schmick
 Closest to the pin Hole #8 (low hcp 15-).....Stu Ackroyd
 Longest Putt Hole #17 (low hcp 15-)Keith Stein
 Ball in Water Hole #18 (Draw)Mike Sawon

SATA PESTICIDE SEMINAR



Jason Pick of Olds College captivating the audience with his presentation on Alberta Pesticide Regulations & OMAFRA

41 Turf Managers attended the annual SATA pesticide seminar at Earl Grey Golf and Country Club. This event is known as one of the best way to earn credits for pesticide license recertification. Despite the busy time of year several SATA members attended to get the specific credits they needed. Very good to see members taking advantage of this opportunity.

Thanks to Bob Garnett and Earl Grey Golf and Country Club for hosting this event for another year.

Many thanks to all of our special guest speakers for giving back to the industry by sharing their time, experience and expertise with all of us.

2011 Agenda

Making The Most Out Of The Products You Use
Mark Jull B.S.c. (Agr), Turf Canada
Application Technology

Topic #2 – 2011 Alberta Pesticide Regulations & OMAFRA
Jason Pick B.S.c. Instructor, Olds College
Professionalism

Soil Ecology & The Food Web
Dale Overton M.S.c Director Overton Environmental Ent.
Environmental

Human Health & Pesticide Safety
Jason Pick B.S.c Instructor, Olds College
Health & Safety

DO WE REALLY NEED TO AERIFY

During the course of a year as I travel to different golf courses both in this country and in other countries I am asked the same question over and over. DO WE REALLY NEED TO AERIFY? Most professional turf managers understand how organic material is deposited in our root zone by the root system, and how this organic material if not managed properly could seal off our greens and cause the turf to stress due to a lack of oxygen. Organic material deposited in the root zone by the root system is the number one cause of green failure. Aerifying using hollow tine cores removes organic material and is the most widely used method to control organic levels.

In years past every superintendent who has ever had to make the decision of how many times to aerify in a year based his decision in no small part on the amount of outrage expressed by the members and the different boards and committees he or she had to answer too. General Managers and Directors of Golf were placed in a very awkward position when a member would ask the questions. Do we really need to aerify? Are we aerifying too often and why does it take the holes so long to heal?

Every person who has ever had to make the decision about aerifying has had to ask himself or herself the following questions:

1. How often **should** I aerify?
2. How deep should I go?
3. What size tines should I use?
4. What should my spacing be between the tines?
5. Should I use Hollow or Solid tines?
6. Should I fill the holes or leave them open?
7. If I fill the holes what should I fill them with?

Until we know what we have in our greens in regards to the physical properties of the greens mix we cannot answer any of the above questions. Once we know what we are trying to manage, the questions answer themselves. Once we know what is below the surface of our greens, we can answer our members' questions with facts based on science and put into place programs that best suit the needs of our members **and** our greens.

Once we know what we have to deal with we can stop talking about aerification and start talking about what is really important and that is **displacement**. How much material do I need to remove each year to get my greens from where they are now to where they need to be or if they are in excellent condition how much material do I need to remove to keep them in excellent condition. The days of subjective guessing are as dead as cloth golf balls and wooden shafted clubs, however most golf courses still base their maintenance programs on the

number of aerifications and not on displacement of material. What a tremendous waste of resources.

Several years ago a very good friend of mine who was the head agronomist for over a hundred courses ask me how much more material we removed/displaced using 1" hollow tines vs. 1/2" hollow tines vs. 1/4" hollow tines and I couldn't give him an answer. When I started to study the displacement amounts I was stunned to learn that we displaced the same amount of material, 3.14% with each of the different tine sizes. At that time most of the aerifying equipment we had available to us did not have variable spacing like we have today. When we aerified with 1/4" tines we were on 1.25" centers. When we aerified with 1/2" tines our spacing between tine holes increased to 2.5" and when we went to 1" tines our spacing increased to 5" spacing. The displacement for each tine stayed the same, and as a result we were no more effective with the larger 1" tines than we were with the smaller 1/4" tines. All the one inch tines accomplished over the quarter inch tines was to anger everyone who played golf and have a negative effect on our cash flow.

Our original work showed that most greens needed to have a displacement of around 20% to keep up with the organic production of the plant and this number was later verified and published by the USGA Green Section.

The amount of annual displacement that a green needs is dependent on many factors. Green type [USGA sand based or push-up] Turf type [New grasses or older varieties], and quality of water are some of the more important factors determining the amount of organic that needs to be displaced on an annual basis.

Dave L. Doherty- David Doherty is the President and Founder of the "International Sports Turf Research Center, Inc." (ISTRC). and holds three patents on the ISTRC System which was developed to monitor the ageing process of both sand and soil based golf greens. Mr. Doherty is recognized by most in the industry to be the world's foremost authority on the Physical Properties of golf greens.

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SATA has decided to include educational articles in the newsletter as a way to provide better value to members. All members are encouraged to contribute. Please submit articles to Editor: Mark Jull. mjull@turfcanda.com



Upcoming Tournaments and Events

- **August 11-14** **PGA Championship**
Atlanta Athletic Club
Atlanta, Georgia

- **August 18** **S.A.T.A Meeting**
Tooth of the Dogpound Creek
Cremona, Alberta
11:00 am

- **September 27** **S.A.T.A AGM**
D'Arcy Ranch Golf Course
Okotoks, AB
TBA

August 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	 	19	20
	15	16	17			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

September 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 	28	29	30		

Board of Directors

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Richart Cran ~ President | Sagebrush Golf Club | (250) 819-7824 |
| Travis Ekelund ~ Vice President | Earl Grey GC | (403) 249-6034 |
| Carey Bradley ~ Treasurer | Maple Ridge GC | (403) 221-3500 |
| Burke Wilson ~ Secretary | Retired | (403) 278-5030 |
| Brian Amor ~ Director | City of Lethbridge | (403) 320-4293 |
| Stewart Ackroyd ~ Director | City of Lethbridge | (403) 320-4293 |
| Mark Jull ~ Editor | Turf Canada Inc. | (403) 390-2116 |



WEBSITE

The SATA website is now online. Visit www.SATAturf.com for updates, pictures and blogs.