

Third Quarter Update 06/2021

Your **Alberta Turfgrass Research Foundation** has entered the final quarter of its fiscal year, and is preparing for the Annual General meeting on Feb 21. With additional metrics forthcoming, we are pleased to announce your incumbent 2021/2022 Alberta Turfgrass Research Foundation Board of Directors:

- President -Travis Matijevich, -term 2 of 2
- Past President -Travis Unger, -acclimated past president
- Treasurer -David Greene -nominated for 2yr term (renewal)
- Director -Peter Boss Sr -nominated for 2yr term (renewal)
- Director -Peter Krebs -term 2 of 2
- Director -Kyle Redfern term -term 2 of 2
- Director -Olivier Le Tynevez-Dobel, -term 2 of 2
- Director -Ben Tymchyshyn -term 2 of 2
- Director -John Faber -term 2 of 2
- Director **-open for nominees**

This year our AGM will take place virtually via the [google meet](#) platform. Members in good standing have received the meeting link through direct email. Metrics of membership growth will be presented on the 21st, with your annual report, and our research contribution announcement.

Prairie Turfgrass Research Center:

The Canadian Turf Research Foundation has received a two objective project proposal from the PTRC, aiming to identify alternative snow mold control products in response to increasing regulation. The project (if approved) will be conducted over 2 consecutive winters with final report due in fall 2023. The ATRF will also publish the completed Foliar Fall Fertility Project in its annual report, presented in the coming months with your 2021 membership renewals.



Departure, Dr. Manuel Chavarria. PHd

"Dr. Chavarria has accepted another position and will be leaving PTRC at the end of February, 2021. The Olds College Centre for Innovation team is working with Dr. Chavarria on a transition plan to ensure that current project and clients' needs continue to be met. The near-term plan includes utilizing existing resources and expertise to execute projects related to snow-mould evaluations. The need for a dedicated turfgrass research scientist will be assessed based on discussions with industry stakeholders over the next few months." Joy Agnew, Associate VP, Applied Research, Olds College Center of Innovation. Manuel has been an integral part of Turf Research at Olds College since 2018. He will no doubt become the asset as he has at Olds, and on behalf of the entire team at ATRF, wish him the very best of luck in his new role.



Olds College Turf Programming;

The turfgrass management diploma and degree programs are still going strong amidst covid, all sections are once again full. A modified in-class session to complete labs is underway for the first 9 weeks of the school term, followed by the remaining 3 classes to be completed online. Critical skills and hands-on learning continue in the College's Landscaping Pavillion, a 20,000ft² indoor construction lab, where they test and install irrigation systems, apply course construction techniques, perform drainage projects and other core competencies throughout the winter months.

Turf Bowl achievement:

February 8, 2021, Olds, AB – Olds College students competed in the annual TurfBowl, an annual event hosted by the Golf Course Superintendent Association of America.

The annual test which takes place at their international conference, is a competition based test inviting undergraduates of Turfgrass programs from all over the world.



In preparation for the Turf Bowl, the teams require special focus upon warm season turf species, and the various challenges of southern growing environments. Altogether different from those we manage in Canada, different turf species, maintenance practices, even units of measurement extends what they've already learned about at Olds. This year for the virtual event, our two degree teams finished top ten. Our 3rd place team Robbie Munroe, Denver Hart, Quaid McBean, and Matt Piers, trailed closely behind winners Purdue, and Penn State. In 7th place, Joel Masikewich, Luther Jurke, and Cody Little were bested by defending champs Cal Poly, University of Nebraska, and Michigan State.

Complete Turf Bowl standings can be found here:

<https://www.golfindustryshow.com/education/student-activities/turf-bowl>

“After our 6th competition at Turf Bowl, we've had three top ten finishes. Very pleased that our grads have proven themselves among the best capable of managing turf not just only in Canada, but anywhere in the world.”

Preparations for the competition include bi-weekly team video conference, coupled with an online training program created in the Moodle digital learning platform. Breaking up the study guide and delegating into various areas of strength, we approach each learning category strategically. The students begin studying in November for the February event, working together on case studies, essays, in the prescribed topic areas together. Their ability to self start, pursue study outside traditional classes and while working in their internships, shows true dedication which is reflected in the results. Most notably, we are deeply grateful for the sponsorship by Syngenta Canada. Jason Steadwell and Syngenta have funded our participation since 2016, allowing us the opportunity to travel and compete, and illustrating clearly Syngenta's commitment to promoting education in our industry.



Team #26, 7th place



Luther Jurke, BAsC. has been in the golf industry for 6 years. He is the Senior Intern at Priddis Greens Golf and Country Club, and in his final year of Olds College's BAsC. in golf course management.



Joel Masikewich, BAsC has been in the turfgrass industry for 12 years in various positions throughout Alberta. He is currently Golf Course superintendent at Meadowlands Golf Club in Sylvan Lake where he resides with my wife and son. Joel is in his final year of the BAsC.



Cody Little, BAsC. is Golf Course Superintendent of Springbank Links, in Calgary, AB., long time staff member promoted in 2020. Prior to taking his position at Springbanks was Principal of Landscape Design and Home renovations based out of Calgary.

Turf Bowl Team #26, 3rd Place



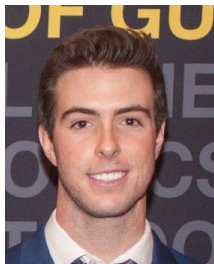
Matt Piers, BAsc. I started working in the golf industry in 2013 just as a summer position, and then started going to school in 2017. In total I've been working on a golf course for 8 years now. Matt recently accepted a new position as the Assistant Superintendent at Springbank Links Golf Club, and will be finishing his BAsc in 2021.



Quaid McBean, BAsc. is from Chestermere Alberta, currently the Assistant Superintendent at Lakeside Golf Club. I have been in the industry for five years and I am currently in the 4th year of my turfgrass management degree at Olds College.



Robbie Munroe, BAsc. - Began his career in Turf and Golf Course Management just three years ago, currently on the leadership team at Capilano Golf and Country Club in West Vancouver. Robbie joins his classmates graduating in the BAsc. class of 2021.



Denver Hart, BAsc. - is the assistant superintendent, also from Capilano Golf & Country Club, in West Vancouver. Previously completing his diploma from University of Guelph, Denver brings a wealth of experience to the team having interned at Baltustrol and Los Angeles Golf & Country Clubs.

The final quarterly report for the 2020/21 fiscal year will be mailed with your 2021 membership renewal. Special thanks to the Alberta Golf Superintendents Association, Saskatchewan Turfgrass Association, and Sod Growers Commodity Group, and all our **50** members for your generous support of turf research in 2020!



Share your project ideas! Submit them [HERE](#)

Should anyone have any questions, please check the website for your sector representative, reach out to abturfresearch@gmail.com , or call Jason at 403-556-8243

