

## Calendar of Events

### GMA Executive Council

July 29, 2003  
Dulles, Va.

### Water Management Task Group

Oct. 7, 2003  
Chicago, Ill.

### 56th Annual Canadian

**Geotechnical Society Conference**  
Sept. 28 – Oct. 1, 2003  
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

### IFAI Expo 2003

Oct. 1–3, 2003  
Las Vegas

### 17th Annual GRI-17 Conference

Dec. 15/16, 2003  
Las Vegas

### Geo-Frontiers 2005

Jan. 24-26, 2005  
Austin, Texas

Visit [www.gmanow.com](http://www.gmanow.com) for the most updated GMA meeting announcements.

## Our Mission:

*GMA serves as the central resource for information regarding geosynthetics and provides a forum for consistent and accurate information to increase the acceptance and to promote the correct use of geosynthetics.*

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## GMA Educational Series

One of the main objectives of the GMA Water Management Task Group is to focus on education of federal government agencies, state and local government water authorities, commercial and agricultural end-users by explaining (or demonstrating) the economical/technical benefits of using geosynthetic products in water conveyance and storage systems along with the traditional use of these products for ground water protection.

From this objective, the task group is developing a series of educational brochures that will include:

- Canal Liners
- Reservoirs/Floating Cover
- Irrigation Ponds
- Decorative Ponds
- Recreation/Architecture

The Canal Lining Brochure is currently at press. We have identified all of the Irrigation District Managers in the U.S. (water masters) and will mail the canal brochure to each one.

Each brochure topic will include a mailing to the government agencies that would have an interest on the specific application. In addition, the series will be available for distribution by GMA members and also will be distributed at industry-affiliated trade shows.

Other GMA focus groups are encouraged to consider adding to this educational series.

The GMA Water Management Task Group is a subgroup of the GMA Environmental Focus Group. The Environmental Focus Group was formed in June of 2001 to provide a forum and the opportunity to have constructive conversations about how industry can work together on the perception of the industry and its products.

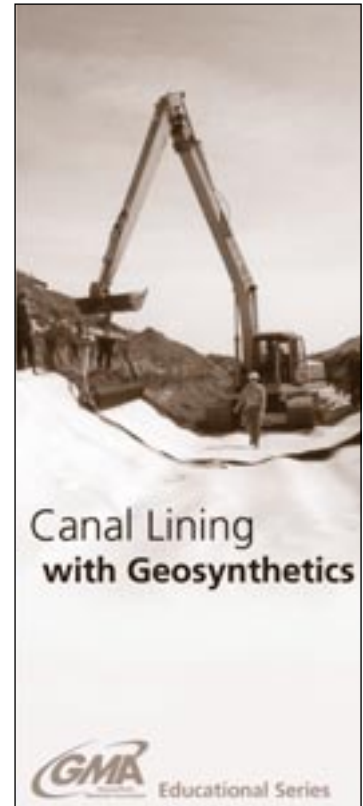
## GMA welcomes two new general members:

### Atarfil S.L., Granada Spain

Main Contact: Mario Garcia  
[www.atarfil.com/index2.html](http://www.atarfil.com/index2.html)

### Carlisle Syntec Inc., Carlisle, PA

Main Contact: Ron Head  
[www.carlisle-syntec.com](http://www.carlisle-syntec.com)



## Geosynthetics Education Program

GMA is moving forward with a conceptual proposal for a joint-sponsored geosynthetics education program between GMA, GSI and NAGS. The majority of today's civil engineering graduates do not know the difference between a non-woven and woven geotextile, let alone that there are different geosynthetics. To make even a small improvement in this situation will be a major undertaking, one too large for any one organization to undertake. The three parts will be as follows:

1. GSI would prepare a CD-Rom, which would give a basic introduction to geosynthetics. This would be a 30 – 50 minute lecture to be included in the introductory, undergraduate, soils courses. This would be distributed to universities within the USA that have an undergraduate civil engineering curriculum, with a request to include it in the introductory soils course.

2. The "Educate the Educator Program," will be revived under the auspices of GMA. Regional seminars would be developed and presented to the faculty members of universities with civil engineering curriculum. Members of GMA, GSI and NAGS located in the regions of the presentations would work

collaboratively in presenting the seminars.

3. NAGS will develop a seminar series aimed at students. This would be more specific than the 30 – 50 minute introductory lecture distributed as above by Dr. Koerner and GSI. Members of NAGS, GSI and GMA located in the regions of the presentations would work collaboratively in presenting the seminars.

It is recognized that such a joint program cannot be undertaken without some financial investment by each organization. NAGS has some existing funds, to which we have been told could be added some start-up funds from the IGS, to help develop the NAGS portion of the program.

Discussion between the three organizations will be held to work out detailed financial arrangements. This would include both developmental costs, and a fee structure for these programs.

Possible benefits of the proposed joint effort are seen to be:

- Geosynthetics get included in the civil engineering curriculum, even if only through the introductory soils courses.
- Educators, students and professionals gain a basic knowledge of geosynthetics.
- Interest is generated for new research for students continuing on to

graduate studies.

- Following graduation, continued interest by the students in geosynthetics, helping to gain wider and new uses of geosynthetics.
- A greater willingness on the part of graduating engineers to specify geosynthetics, perhaps leading to fewer failures.
- Possible new membership in the sponsoring organizations.

## [www.gmanow.com](http://www.gmanow.com)

During the next couple of weeks, GMA members will receive via e-mail its IFAI member constituent I.D. numbers that will be required for future updates to your GMA member profiles. When you register on the GMA site you will be prompted to insert your number. Please contact Danette with questions.

## Geotextile Focus Group

The GMA Geotextile Focus Group is finalizing some marketing pieces including a cost comparison chart of geotextiles versus traditional materials. The task group also is organizing technical notes that will be printed and distributed to appropriate government agencies as well as at industry-affiliated trade shows.

## 2004 Editorial Calendar for GFR, the official publication of GMA

<b>January/February</b> The Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soil reinforcement</li> <li>• Secondary containment</li> <li>• Remediation</li> <li>• Erosion control</li> </ul> Report: Electrically conductive geosynthetics	<b>April</b> Water Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waterways and reservoirs</li> <li>• Geotextile bags and tubes</li> <li>• Coastal engineering</li> <li>• Sediment control</li> </ul> Report: Animal waste	<b>June/July</b> The Transportation Issue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bridges</li> <li>• Working with soft soils</li> <li>• Railways</li> <li>• Drainage</li> </ul> Report: Capping systems	<b>September</b> Soil <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Erosion control</li> <li>• Reinforcement</li> <li>• Separation</li> <li>• Designing software</li> </ul> Report: Remediation and reuse
<b>March</b> Municipal Concerns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transportation</li> <li>• Stormwater Management</li> <li>• Landfills</li> </ul> Report: Geosynthetics in the construction industry	<b>May</b> Construction season <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retaining walls</li> <li>• Landscape drainage</li> <li>• Steep slopes</li> <li>• Private development</li> </ul> Report: Highways	<b>August</b> Geosynthetic Integrity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Installation</li> <li>• Durability</li> <li>• Testing</li> </ul> Report: Geosynthetics in the energy industry	<b>October/November</b> Vision <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pollution control</li> <li>• Private development</li> <li>• Reinventing infrastructure</li> </ul> Report: The Forensics of Failure
			<b>December</b> 2005 Specifiers Guide