

### IN THIS ISSUE

- Questioning Turfgrass Research — A few tough questions.
- TPI travels to Washington D.C.
- Mousing Around for a Good Cause.
- Veronica Iwanski promoted to TPI's Membership Manager.
- Where in the World is TPI Represented - Begunje, Slovenia.
- Artificial Turf in Golden Gate Park? It's for the birds!
- Portland, Oregon's 250 foot GREEN WALL.
- A "Real Rice" looking field.
- TPI Member goes underground.
- Some injuries are more common on artificial turf.
- Featuring the TPI logo on your websites tells people a lot more than you might think.
- Senator Bob Casey of (D-PA) introduces the Green Communities Act, S.3055.
- A hunting trip worth remembering benefits turfgrass research.
- President of American Farm Bureau Federation comments on final H2A Ruling.



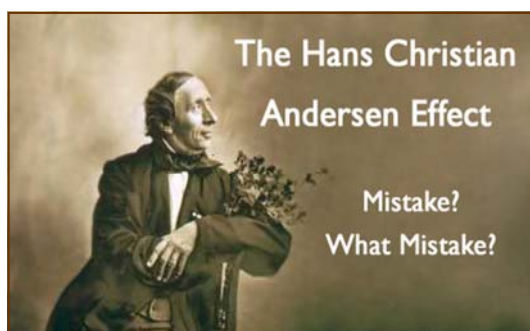
Turfgrass Producers  
International  
2 East Main Street  
East Dundee, IL 60118  
Tel: 847/649-5555  
Tel: 800/405-8873  
Fax: 847/649-5678  
Email:  
[info@TurfGrassSod.org](mailto:info@TurfGrassSod.org)  
Website:  
[www.TurfGrassSod.org](http://www.TurfGrassSod.org)  
Comments & Submissions:  
[jnovak@TurfGrassSod.org](mailto:jnovak@TurfGrassSod.org)

Volume 3 Issue 4

April 2010

TPI's column as featured in the March issue of Landscape Management.

## QUESTIONING TURFGRASS RESEARCH



Writing this column is extremely difficult because the subject matter is somewhat sensitive in nature. On one hand, we don't want to discourage the efforts of university researchers; call into question the integrity of a university, or call to task those involved in the peer reviewing process. On the other hand, when a series of questionable events begin to transpire and one senses a seeming position of denial, it is best that someone speaks-up.

Perhaps a few questions at the outset will put things in perspective.

What is the responsibility of researchers, a university, peer reviewers or even the media relations department of a university when a research study that has been approved and published gets international media attention and then is found to contain admitted miscalculations? And what if any responsibility do they have to withdraw known misinformation until the correct information can be posted?

Should the incorrect information remain posted for a few days, several weeks or even a month?

The research in question is the now controversial, Amy Townsend-Small and Claudia Czimczik (University of California - Irvine) study titled, "Carbon Sequestration and Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Urban Turf" which was peer reviewed by the American Geophysical Union (AGU) and published in the journal Geophysical Research Letters.

The initial press release on the UCI study was posted and circulated on January 19, 2010. Within 48 hours the research conclusions (which suggested turfgrass maintenance generated more carbon than that which is stored by turfgrass) was being reported worldwide.

On January 27 and 28 at least two independent parties involved in turfgrass research contacted the authors of the study to report errors they found in the study's calculations. Shortly thereafter the Media Relations Department at UCI received separate requests from Turfgrass Producers International, (TPI) the National Turfgrass Federation, (NTF) and the United States Golf Association (USGA) – Green Section to pull the release from the UCI website until the miscalculations were corrected.

These requests were denied.

Cont'd of page 2

**Questioning Turfgrass Research - Cont'd from page 1**

As more PhD turfgrass research scientists and recognized researchers who understand the dynamics of turfgrass science began to take a deeper look at the study more troubling questions began to arise above and beyond the matter of miscalculations.

Comments from those reviewing the study expressed a concern regarding the methodology, generalizations, apparent assumptions and the lack of important data for such a study to reach a valid conclusion.

These are just a few of the many candid comments we have received from turfgrass research scientists who have reviewed the Townsend-Small/Czimczik study:

- "Too many assumptions and potentials in their statements."
- "Bad science on their part."
- "The journal has a responsibility to publish science not conjecture."
- "All my results can prove that N<sub>2</sub>O does come from fertilizer applied to turf but when properly applied, emission is small."
- "If my conversion is correct, that would be 15 lbs N per 1000 ft<sup>2</sup> per year!"
- "This is very sloppy science."
- "This would have never made it through peer review in any of the American Society of Agronomy journals."
- "It really bothers me that shoddy science like this can make it into "scientific journals" and to the public press."
- "It is an example of conclusions based on bad science."
- "It's bad enough that the peer reviewers did not find or report the errors to the authors, but when informed, the university media people went on to disseminate the information."
- "The paper extends the invalid results to turfgrass lawns across the US. The test sites and modeling used appear to be atypical of most turfgrass lawns in the US, and thus the interpretations applied broadly are not valid."

The previous comments were not made by self-righteous activists, uninformed individuals with their own agenda or weekend bloggers, but rather some of the nation's leading and most respected turfgrass research scientists who were for the most part unaware of what others had to say about the content of the Townsend-Small/Czimczik study.

As of this writing the negative conclusions of the released study have generated worldwide coverage. For example, the original UCI press release was picked up by The EPOCH Times which publishes in 17 languages in 33 countries across five continents. Their opening headline and copy read:

**Pollution from Keeping Lawns –**

*"Turfgrass lawns are not environmentally friendly, according to recent research by Dr. Amy Townsend-Small and Dr. Claudia Czimczik of the University of California, Irvine."*

Turfgrass Producers International was finally advised on March 4 that UCI had sent out a corrected press release dated February 18. However, that press release was all too similar in content to the original in that it stated the same questionable conclusions:

*"Urban 'green' spaces may contribute to global warming, UCI study finds."*

*"Turfgrass management can create more greenhouse gas than plants remove from atmosphere"*

*"Dispelling the notion that urban "green" spaces help counter-act greenhouse gas emissions, new research has found - in Southern California at least - that total emissions might be lower if lawns did not exist."*

*"...the carbon-storing benefits of lawns can be counteracted by greenhouse gas emissions."*

*"It's unlikely for these lawns to act as net greenhouse gas sinks because too much energy is used to maintain them," Townsend-Small concluded."*

Cont'd of page 3



*professional tractor powered mowing equipment*

Introducing the **PEGASUS**



**Premiere Advertiser**  
**Turf News**

### Questioning Turfgrass Research - Cont'd from page 2

Miscalculations aside, it soon became apparent to turfgrass PhD's that several things were amiss in the Townsend-Small/Czimczik turfgrass/carbon research study that would dramatically alter the conclusion:

- Soil Organic Carbon Sampling Too Shallow
- Species Composition Not Reported
- Mowing Height Not Reported
- Soil Series and Taxonomic Classification Are Needed
- Soil Nutrient Description Not Reported
- Potential Adverse Soil Chemistry Not Reported
- Actual Nitrogen Inputs Not Reported
- Unrealistic Nitrogen Application Model
- High Rate of Nitrogen Applied
- Assumes Nitrogen Flux is Uniform Throughout a 24-Hour Day
- Incorrect Soil Moisture Interpretation

- Initial Soil Properties Not Documented
- Replication of Test Sites Unclear
- Assumes Results Apply Broadly To U.S. Lawns

Within the next few weeks The Lawn Institute will be submitting a detailed assessment (based on a peer review by leading turfgrass research scientists) on the above mentioned issues and will provide an explanation of each to Townsend-Small/Czimczik, the University of California (Irvine) and the American Geophysical Union (AGU).

What is most disturbing about the series of events that have transpired since the Townsend-Small/Czimczik study was originally released isn't just the questionable conclusions that were reached . . . but rather how they were reached, how the material was reviewed, and why misinformation and assumptions were allowed to circulate and continue to circulate.

- Jim Novak  
Turfgrass Producers International

## The Hans Christian Andersen Effect—Mistake? What Mistake?



"We are two very good tailors and after many years of research we have invented an extraordinary method to weave a cloth so light and fine that it looks invisible. As a matter of fact it is invisible to anyone who is too stupid and incompetent to appreciate its quality." When the tailors showed the Emperor's Prime Minister the non-existing fabric he thought to himself, "I can't see anything, but if I see nothing, that means I'm stupid or incompetent!" Some time later the Emperor wore his new clothes for a royal procession. A child, who had no important job and could only see things as his eyes showed them to be, shouted, "The Emperor is naked!" The Emperor realized the child was right but could not admit to matter. He thought it better to continue the procession under the illusion that anyone who couldn't see his clothes was either stupid or incompetent. And he stood stiffly and walked on, while behind him a page held his imaginary cloak.

- Adapted from "The Emperor's New Clothes" - Hans Christian Andersen



**R&R PRODUCTS, INC.**  
Quality Turf Equipment  
Parts Manufacturer



Premiere Advertiser  
**Turf News**



## Turfgrass Producers International Travels to Washington D.C.

TPI's Executive Director, Kirk Hunter traveled to Washington D.C. for the Board Meeting of the National Turfgrass Federation (NTF). The day prior to the meeting Hunter and other NTF board members visited numerous government officials to address issues of importance to the turfgrass industry.



Kevin Morris (National Turfgrass Federation), Kirk Hunter (Turfgrass Producers International) and Dr. Mike Kenna (USGA-Green Section) in Washington D.C. to meet with government officials and their staff.

### CAPITOL HILL MEETINGS 3/24/10

National Turfgrass Research Initiative (NTRI) /Appropriations/ Senator Robert Bennett's (R-UT) office.

Carbon Sequestration/Colorado Carbon Project (Rep. Betsy Markey D-CO-4).

National Mall turf renovation discussion with John Piltzecker, National Mall Superintendent and Steve Lorenzetti, Deputy Superintendent.

USDA and NTRI meeting with Dr. Tom Bewick, National Program Leader and Coordinator, Specialty Crop Research Initiative and Specialty Crops Research Funding.

Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Administrator Dr. Ed Knipling and NIFA Administrator Dr. Roger Beachy.

NTRI/Appropriations in the office of Rep. Allen Boyd (D-FL).

### NTF BOARD MEETING 3/25/10

- **National Turfgrass Evaluation Program**  
Kevin Morris
- **Turfgrass Producers International**  
Kirk Hunter
- **United States Golf Association**  
Dr. Michael Kenna
- **Professional Landcare Network**  
Tom Delaney
- **State Land-Grant Universities**  
Dr. Brian Horgan
- **Outdoor Power Equipment Institute**  
Kris Kiser
- **Univ. of Tennessee / Sports Turf Managers Assn.**  
Dr. John Sorocean
- **John Deere**  
Dr. Mark Schmidt

In addition to discussing general business the NTF Board addressed the following:

- Congressional/Administration visits of the previous day
- Regulatory issues
- Carbon sequestration research
- Green Business Alliance – GSI, Sustainability issues
- American Society of Horticultural Science – common issues, collaboration on research funding/NIFA/ Congressional earmarks
- National Mall Restoration Project
- LEED – U. S. Green Building Council, Sustainable Sites Initiative, etc.



Section of newly installed turfgrass on the National Mall.

Photos: Kirk Hunter—Turfgrass Producers International



**BARENBRUG**  
Great in Grass®  
www.barusa.com



Premiere Advertiser  
**Turf News**

## THANK YOU to those manufacturers and suppliers who promote TPI on their websites

Turfgrass Producers International greatly appreciates the efforts on the part of manufacturers and suppliers who promote TPI on their websites and encourage membership.



**TPI TURFGRASS PRODUCERS INTERNATIONAL**  
**Become a TPI Member**  
 Click here for more info and an Application Form.

## TurfSide-UP

### A Simple Case of...Misunderstanding?



Husband: Honey!

Wife: Yes dear.

Husband: Why is there a square foot of grass missing from our front lawn.

Wife: Oh my!

Husband: Oh my what?

Wife: Our son asked me if he could show our front lawn to his first grade classmates at school. I said of course. I had no idea he literally meant that he was going to show his classmates our front lawn . . . at school.

## Mousing Around For A Good Cause

Japanese artist strives to make Osama, Japan's schoolyards green.



Image by [Hanaoka](#)

This Grass Covered Mouse featured on the right is part of a series of grass-like covered gadgets and objects created by Japanese artist Hanaoka.

Unfortunately the Grass Covered Mouse is merely a prototype and not for sale at this time. The artist also enjoys coating cars, fashion accessories, and other gadgets in what appears to be some sort of artificial turf. Hold on, CNET reports that the artist donates 50 percent of his proceeds to a nonprofit organization called "Shibafu Sprit", which aims to make Osaka, Japan area schoolyards naturally green (Shibafu is the word for "grass" in Japanese).

If your curiosity has the best of you, you can visit [Hanaokas](#) website to check out his range of grass covered gadgets and objects, many of which are for sale. Of course, you have to be able to read Japanese.

## Veronica Iwanski Promoted to TPI Membership Manager



Kirk Hunter, executive director of TPI has announced that **Veronica Iwanski** has been promoted to the position of Membership Manager.

In announcing the appointment Hunter said, "All TPI members and suppliers that have had the pleasure of talking to Veronica

when they call the TPI office, or when they meet her at TPI Conferences or Conventions, know she has tremendous enthusiasm, a professional demeanor and a desire to be helpful. We can't think of anyone who is more qualified to interact with our members in such a caring and personal way. We look forward to all that she has to offer as she takes on these new responsibilities."

Veronica joined TPI in 2007 as the Administrative Assistant and later as the Accounting & Office Manager. Our sincere congratulations for a deserving promotion.

We wish Susan Hall the very best in her future endeavors and thank her for her service.

**MCCORD**  
 FLOTATION TIRE SALES AND SERVICE  
 EMAIL: [TERRA@MCCORDTIREGROUP.COM](mailto:TERRA@MCCORDTIREGROUP.COM)

**WE'RE NOT JUST IN  
 THE BUSINESS —  
 We Made It!!!**

**Premiere Advertiser**  
**Turf News**



Where in the world is  
TPI represented?  
**EVERYWHERE!**

An on-going series featuring photos and copy  
from TPI member websites.

**Begunje, SLOVENIA**  
**KRIVIC TRAVNI TEPIHI D.O.A.**  
[www.travni-tepihi.com](http://www.travni-tepihi.com)



We have been growing quality grass for over ten years. Our grass is the result of testing different types of grass seed so we can achieve a high-quality grass cover that is well adapted to our climate. Our grass grows for two years before it is harvested to ensure a strong root system.

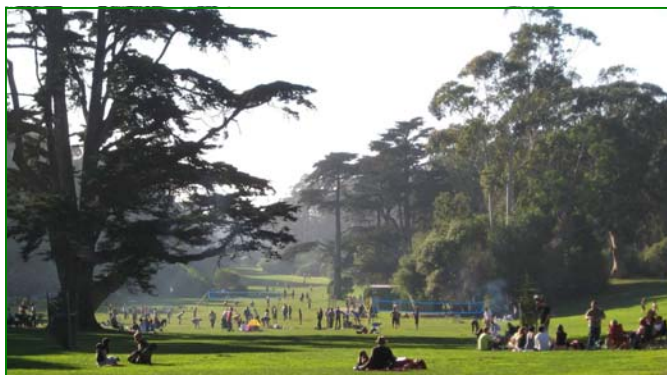
GRASS CARPETS represent a solution to providing fast greening gardens, urban and exhibition space. Standard maintenance and immediate application offer a quick solution for those who are not willing to wait for the natural growth of a seeded path turf. In one day you can change your house so you enjoy a green oasis, where you can play, walk or just admire.

Proud Member of Turfgrass Producers International



Note: Copy reflects an effort to translate original text from Slovene (Slovenian) to English.

## Artificial Turf in Golden Gate Park? It's for the birds!



Golden Gate Park's Speedway Meadow



**Audubon**

San Francisco's Planning Department is considering an appeal to scratch plans to install artificial turf and lights on four soccer fields that are part of a seven acre piece of land that the Audubon Society feels is crucial to birds and other animals in the area. The Audubon Society and other environmental groups have demanded the city conduct an environmental review of the \$8.9 million project, looking at the impacts to birds that rest, nest and feed on and around the fields.

Thousands of songbirds and shorebirds gather or migrate through the western edge of Golden Gate Park, which is relatively wild and offers plenty of feeding options for wildlife. Unfortunately the area is also prized by soccer players, who say the city is severely lacking in playfields. The four in Golden Gate Park are so heavily used that the city keeps one closed to allow grass to grow back.

The proposed lights would allow all four fields to be used until 10 p.m. every night, almost doubling the fields' availability. But the lights can confuse migrating flocks particularly in the fog. The light issue is so serious that the Audubon Society, Pacific Gas and Electric Co. and the city are encouraging high-rise building owners to shut off lights at night during spring and fall migrations. Similar programs have been successful in Chicago, Toronto and other cities. A lights-out policy in Golden Gate Park would be especially helpful for bird populations already decimated over the past decade or so. Mike Lynes, conservation director for the Golden Gate Audubon Society said, "We've already seen huge declines in our coastal shorebirds, we have to do what we can to protect what's left." The San Francisco Planning Department is expected to respond sometime this month. If it denies the Audubon Society's request, the group said it would appeal to the Board of Supervisors and if that fails, possibly sue.

Thanks to Dr. Ali Harivandi, Turfgrass Extension Specialist, University of California (Riverside) for bringing this story to our attention.

**Magnum™**

EQUIPMENT • NETTING • PARTS

*The Force in Turf*

Bucyrus Equipment Company, Inc.  
[www.magnumharvesters.com](http://www.magnumharvesters.com)

Premiere Advertiser

**Turf News**



## Regional Associations—NEWS



Members of Turfgrass Producers International  
Elected Officers of

**North Carolina Sod Producers Association**

Congratulations to the following TPI members who were elected as NCSPA's new Officers on January 25, 2010

**David Bradley**, Turf Mountain Sod, Hendersonville, NC as President; **Mark Harris**, Sandhill Turf, Eagle Springs, NC as Vice President; **Matt Parrish**, SODCO, Willow Springs NC, as Secretary/Treasurer and **David Slater**, Slater Turf Farm, Tryon, NC continues to serve in his new role as Immediate Past President.

## Portland's 250 Foot Green Wall



Image credit: Baumberger Studio / SERA Architects / GSA

*The Washington Post* reports that the 18-story Edith Green-Wendell Wyatt Federal Building in Portland, Oregon is getting a 250-foot-tall green wall. The western wall is also 150 feet long, making the expanse about "three-quarters the size of an NFL playing field, minus the end zones."

The federal building's new wall is part of a \$135 million remodeling mostly funded by federal stimulus funds. The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) seeks to create a "landmark high-performance building."

According to *The Washington Post* article, it's the largest stimulus project in Oregon.

SERA Architects, the design firm for the building, will create seven vertical "vegetated fins" that will "jut at acute angles." The fins act as a trellis and provide the foundation for the plantings. The architects are still working out which plants will grow well 250-feet in the air, and how to fertilize, water, and prune at those heights. High-rise pruners may be deployed in the same way skyscrapers get window washers. Additionally, rainwater will be collected on the roof and an elaborate irrigation system will water the wall.

The wall helps create a new look for an unloved "modernist, International style" federal building created in the 1970's. In addition to removing and replacing the facade, the GSA will add new energy-efficiency features: "Elevators that generate electricity on the way down, solar arrays on the roof, smart lighting systems that adjust to the daylight available, using some of the collected rainwater to flush toilets." Construction is expected to take 30-40 months.

Green Roofs for Healthy Cities told *The Washington Post*: "The GSA has been a real leader in the use of green roofs and walls. It's nice to see the government leading by example."



**MAINTAIN YOUR CASH . . .  
and productivity.**

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

*Premiere Advertiser*

**Turf News**



## Now that's a "REAL RICE" looking field

The above headline isn't toying with being politically correct, it's intended to be a pun regarding the eye-appealing crop art that has sprung up in "real rice" fields across Japan.

The Japanese farmers who create these huge displays use no ink or dye. The artistic renderings and complex designs are the result of cleverly planted varieties of rice.



Different colored rice plants (see above photo) are strategically arranged and grown in the paddy fields. The farmers create the murals by planting little purple and yellow-leafed Kodaimai rice along with their local green-leafed Tsugaru to create the colored patterns in the time between planting and harvesting in September. Rice-paddy art was started in Inkadate, Japan nearly a decade ago as a local revitalization project.



Aerial view of a rice field depicts Napoleon on horseback.



During the first nine years, the village office workers and local farmers grew a simple design of Mount Iwaki every year (see photo above and note the utility building on the left and main road to the right.) As their ideas grew more complicated and attracted more attention agreements between landowners allowed the creation of enormous rice paddy art.

In 2006, organizers began using computers to precisely plot planting of the four differently colored rice varieties that bring the images to life.

Today the murals in Inkadate cover 15,000 square meters of paddy fields.



The rendering of a Sengoku warrior on horseback appears to oversee a paddy



**JOHN DEERE**  
LANDSCAPES

**We Know Your Turf.**

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

**Premiere Advertiser**  
**Turf News**





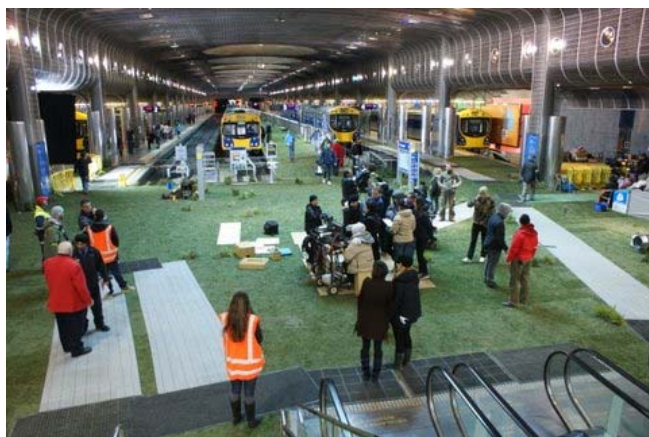
## TPI Member goes two stories underground to provide natural turfgrass for filming of television commercials

When we recently learned that TPI member, **Readylawn**, (New Zealand's largest grower and marketer of "instant turf lawn", servicing the entire country of New Zealand) had provided natural turfgrass inside the Britomart Railway Station in Auckland, we wanted to learn more. We contacted **Roger Morgan** of Readylawn in Christchurch, New Zealand. Roger then directed us to **Peter Garvey**, Manager of Turfgrass Specialists in Auckland and here's what we learned.

New Zealand's largest dairy company (Meadow Fresh) was planning to do a series of television commercials. The project spanned over eighteen months because preferred sites came and went. They finally settled on the Auckland (Britomart) Railway Station, an underground station some two stories down.

Readylawn supplied 1,200 square meters of rolled turf. They selected Readylawn's tall fescue as they felt it would be a little stronger than their ryegrass. The turfgrass was cut on a Saturday morning and carted off at 8:00 pm that that same evening. They also had to design special pallets that could fit into the lift (elevator). The pallets were moved around using pallet jacks to and from the lifts. The turf was laid before 2:00 am. Lighting and camera gear set-up by the film crew was finished around 6:00 am. and filming commenced. The station remained open throughout Sunday and filming continued until 11:00 that evening. By 5:00 am Monday morning all turf had been removed before the morning commuters arrived. The removed turfgrass was donated to a local school.

Our sincere thanks to Roger Morgan and Peter Garvey for sharing this story with TPI.



Film crew sets up for early morning TV commercial shoot after turfgrass has been installed in the Britomart Railway Station in Auckland, New Zealand.



Unsuspecting commuters are surprised to see the incredible transition from concrete walkways to natural turfgrass as they exit a train.

Photos courtesy of Peter J. Garvey - Turfgrass Specialist, LTD.



Innovation & Quality  
By Design

Premiere Advertiser  
**Turf News**

## Some injuries more common on artificial turf

**The National Football League's (NFL) Injury and Safety Panel finds that certain serious knee and ankle injuries happen more often in games played on the most popular brand of artificial turf than on natural grass.**

According to a study presented at the 2010 Annual Meeting of the **American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS)**, rates for Anterior Cruciate Ligament (ACL) injuries and eversion ankle sprains (where the foot twists outward) are significantly higher in the National Football League (NFL) games played on FieldTurf, an artificial playing surface, as compared to natural grass.

The study was led by Elliott B. Hershman, MD, Chairman of Orthopaedic Surgery at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York, NY, and Chair of the NFL Injury and Safety Panel. As chair of the panel, Dr. Hershman meets with trainers, team physicians and orthopaedic surgeons who together study injuries in the NFL and look for ways to prevent them.

"These injuries could be happening for myriad reasons, and we need to further explore and initiate research into exactly why this is happening," said Dr. Hershman. "What can be

done to make the [artificial] turf safer? Would different sports, such as soccer or age groups, such as high school football, also sustain more ACL injuries or eversion ankle sprains on FieldTurf? What biomechanics are happening when a player's shoe meets the FieldTurf surface? We need to find answers to these, and other questions," he added.

The data from the study represents NFL game-related injuries that occurred to players during the 2002-2008 football seasons:

- Teams that played on FieldTurf surfaces showed an 88 percent higher ACL injury rate and a 48 percent increase in eversion ankle sprains.
- Per team game, the injury rate was 27 percent higher on FieldTurf surfaces than natural grass surfaces for all reported game-related lower extremity injuries.



Dr. Hershman emphasized that his study only applies to NFL players, and does not offer reasons as to why more injuries occur on FieldTurf. However, the conclusions in the study are clear, and he added "many NFL players prefer FieldTurf because it is softer and more comfortable to land on than other playing surfaces such as natural grass, but the more that NFL players play on this surface, the more prone they are to injury. "It is important for athletes, coaches, athletic trainers, and fans to be aware of this issue."

**AAOS**

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF  
ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS

[Click here to see abstract](#)

<http://www3.aaos.org/education/anmeet/anmt2010/podium/podium.cfm?Pevent=692>

**TAMANET**  
(U.S.A) INC.

Meeting all your netting needs  
Meeting all your netting needs

Premiere Advertiser  
**Turf News**





Featuring the TPI logo on your website tells people a lot more than you might think.

The Turfgrass Producers International logo represents more than the name of a respected international turfgrass association . . . it also tells people something about you and your business.



When **Aidan Burke**, Director of *Turf Lawn Sales* in Taghadee, Maynooth, Co. Kildare, Ireland recently contacted the TPI office to become a member he was asked how he heard about TPI.

Aidan indicated he had been visiting the websites of various turfgrass producers and saw that many of them identified themselves as being members of Turfgrass Producers International both on their websites and in their advertising. He then visited the TPI website, became interested in what TPI had to offer, and signed up to become a member so he could, as he put it, gain helpful information.

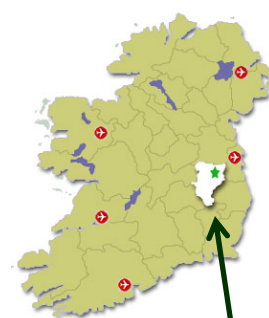
It is our hope that we might see Aidan at the upcoming Summer Convention & Field Days in New York come this July; if only because we know the opportunity to meet

with other turfgrass producers from around the world, see equipment demo's during the Field Day at Pine Island Turf Nursery and meet with manufacturers and suppliers will provide Aidan with a great deal of helpful information.

New and old members alike say that networking with other turfgrass producers at TPI's Conferences and Conventions is the greatest benefit they derive as a TPI member.

Featuring the TPI logo on your website or in your advertising and promotional literature sends a positive message to current and prospective customers. It also tells people something special about you and your business.

### Map of Ireland



### Kildare County



Interested in becoming a TPI Member?  
Click on the image below:



**Become a  
TPI Member**

Click here for more info and an Application Form.

<http://www.turfgrassod.org/join-tpi/membership-application>

### ADVANCED EQUIPMENT SALES

P.O. Box 818, 119 E. William Street  
Seaforth, Ontario NOK1W0

Phone: 519/522-0518 Email: [advanceequipment@tcc.on.ca](mailto:advanceequipment@tcc.on.ca)

### Vac-320

13.3 Cubic Yard Capacity  
4 Turf Wheels, Floating Axles  
Floating Pick-Up Heads Available  
Aluminum Pick-Up Heads Available  
Available with 10 or 12 ft. Pick-Up



### Premiere Advertiser

**Turf News**



## Casey Introduces Bill to Green Urban Areas



March 2, 2010

WASHINGTON, DC – U.S. Senator Bob Casey (D-PA) introduced the Green Communities Act, S.3055, which would help communities create green strategies to improve quality of life, attract new business and improve the general environment in urban areas.

“Research shows that urban greening not only improves the quality of life for residents, but also attracts new business, generates economic growth and creates jobs,” said Senator Casey. “It is more important now than ever to focus on new ideas that will restore the health of our economy and will get people back to work. That’s why I introduced the Green Communities Act to assist cities in planning, designing and implementing green infrastructure strategies.”

The Green Communities Act creates a new program through the Department of Commerce’s Economic Development Administration. This program will encourage public-private partnership by contracting with five nationally recognized non-profit organizations that will

provide technical assistance to 80 municipalities across the United States. After the communities have completed the technical assistance portion, they will be eligible for additional grant funding to help implement their green planning.

The Green Communities Act is endorsed by groups including: America In Bloom, Alliance for Community Trees, American Nursery & Landscape Association, National Association of Clean Water Agencies, OFA – An Association of Floriculture Professionals, Pennsylvania Association of Boroughs, Penn Future, Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, Pennsylvania Landscape & Nursery Association, Perennial Plant Association, Professional Landcare Network, **Project EverGreen\***, Society of American Florists, Tree Care Industry Association and **Turf and Ornamental Communicators Association (TOCA)\***.

The legislation has also been introduced in the House of Representatives by Congresswoman Allyson Schwartz (D-PA).

Press Contact—Stephanie Zarecky 202-228-6367

\* TPI is actively involved in Project Evergreen (Kirk Hunter - TPI Executive Director and Den Gardner -Editor *TURF NEWS* both serve on the Board as Treasurer and Executive Director respectively. TPI is also an active member in TOCA .



### I'll Take My Grass "To Go" PLEASE

Grass to go isn't as far fetched as you might think if you have the imagination of Dutch artist Kevin van Braak.

He's created a mobile green caravan that you can take anywhere you would like. Just arrive at your destination, fold down the walls and bingo, you have a comfortable grassy area to unwind.

To see other images of Kevin's grass caravan just follow this link to [Inhabitat](http://www.inhabitat.com).

<http://www.inhabitat.com/2006/08/21/unpack-a-park-mobile-green-space/>

**TURF TICK PRODUCTS B.V.**

<http://www.turftick.com/index.html>

DUTCH QUALITY DESIGN by VANVUUREN MACHINES



**Premiere Advertiser**

**Turf News**





## A Hunting Trip to Remember



At the 2008 TPI Winter Conference, Summit Seed was the high bidder for the silent auction. Our auction item was a hunting trip with Emerald View Turf Farms, Inc. Little did we know what type of trip this would be; we would be spending three days in Missouri with an amazing family on their hunting properties.

We were greeted at the local restaurant by Tom & Ed Keeven. After formal introductions were made; they took us back to their piece of heaven. Being an avid hunter, it quickly became clear that we had a lot in common. This family was serious about deer and waterfowl hunting. Imagine, a large track of virgin timber nestled away in solitude, coupled with a waterfowl hunting spot second to none.

The next morning we gathered our gear and headed to town for breakfast at the local restaurant, prior to the hunt. We were blessed with the opportunity to meet Mr. Ed Keeven, the co-founder of Emerald View Turf

Farms along with his wife Vivienne, whom started the sod farm back in 1951. For those of you who have never met Mr. Keeven he is a remarkable man; at 84 years young he has an amazing passion for duck hunting. I could tell this day was going to be one to remember.

The day was cool, cloudy and wet. We arrived at the Goose Pasture Farms Club and dawned our gear while the Keeven's loaded up the boat to transport us to the hunting blind. You could just feel the tradition of waterfowl hunting that was steeped deep within this place; from the high water marks on the clubhouse, to the boat house filled with decoys, to boats awaiting the days' hunters. After a quick pre-sunrise boat ride we were soon nestled amongst corn stubble in our sunken pit with Ed, Tom, Jim and Carl from Emerald View Turf Farm, Inc.

For those of you who have never hunted waterfowl in flooded corn, it is hard to realize how much fun it is to see hundreds of birds over head at one time working your decoys.

Soon the sun's glow peaked over the horizon and the sky was filled with black specks headed in all directions. Now was time to sit back in the pit and wait for the ducks that would soon be leaving their roosting areas on the neighboring reserve in search of areas to feed.

The Keeven's' began talking to the ducks with their calls. It was amazing to listen to; and it became quite clear that these fellows had spent a lot of time afield. In a matter of minutes the specks took form and the unforgettable sound of approaching ducks and whistling wings were upon us.

The ducks were on final approach when Ed Keeven said "take them"; the quiet morning was interrupted with the roar of 3 inch magnums ringing out of our barrels. While many flew away, there was still a duck on the water for almost every shell that had been fired; we were closing in on our limit just hours after arriving in the field. While this is certainly not the norm, it was a fantastic time a field for us all. Subsequent flocks of birds allowed us to finish up on our five man limit. This scenario repeated itself over and over again as we watched in amazement and never fired another shot. It had been one of the best duck hunts I have ever experienced, and there was still more hunting to come with Emerald View the following day.

When I questioned the Keeven's about our great hunt they humbly admitted to me that they had been duck hunting since they were young men, and had grown up in this wonderful sport. In amazement of their humble demeanor it was now quite clear what had happened that morning.

Cont'd on Page 14

## A Hunting Trip to Remember (cont'd from previous page)



## Friends and Fond Memories

Left to right: Ed Lee, Ed Keeven, Ron Edwards and Tom Keeven.

A great hunt club, a wonderful family and hunters that spent a lot of time afield and truly love the sport of water fowling. We wrapped up our evenings with a fish fry and spent the remaining daylight hours in the woods doing a little mid season bow hunting.

This trip had already exceeded our expectations but that same evening Ed Lee was able to take his first deer with a bow, I couldn't think of a better place and people to share this experience with.

I can tell you that this is a trip that I will tell stories about for many years to come. It's not too often that you see a family so tightly knit and passionate about the outdoor world and the turf industry.

The Keeven family has brought a lot to the turf industry and TPI over the 59 years in the industry. This is truly a family to remember, one that gives back in so many ways. Thank you for allowing us to share these fond memories with you.

Written By: Ron Edwards of Summit Seed, Inc.

**SIDE NOTE:** The SILENT AUCTION of which the Keeven's "Missouri Duck & Deer Hunt" was a part also included winning bids for a "Sail The Seas" excursion in the Bahamas donated by **Steve & Dolores Brown** of Quality Turf Farms and a "Fishing & Hunting Trip" donated by **Arthur Milberger**, King Ranch Turfgrass, LP. We would welcome comments from the winners of those bids to find out how much they enjoyed their mini-holiday. All the funds collected for the SILENT AUCTION support research and education through *The Lawn Institute*.



"As a member of National Council for Agricultural Employers (NCAE) Turfgrass Producers International (TPI) monitors labor issues and supports Ag-Jobs reform to the H2A guest worker program. The following comments by American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) President, Bob Stallman is the best summation we have read regarding the current immigration/ag labor legislation that is being considered in Congress."

Kirk Hunter — TPI Executive Director

### President of American Farm Bureau Federation comments on Final H2A Ruling



"The American Farm Bureau Federation is extremely disappointed with changes to the H-2A program temporary worker program announced by the Labor Department. The new program will be the most difficult ever for agricultural employers to administer. It also comes at a critical time of economic

uncertainty and undoes a number of improvements implemented by the department only a year ago.

"There continues to be a labor shortage in U.S. agriculture and agricultural employers need an efficient, affordable temporary worker program to help put food on Americans' tables. Even with the slower economy, farm labor remains physically demanding, periodic, all-weather work and it is often impossible for farmers and ranchers to find the workers they need.

"It is the right policy of the United States to require that only those who are legally eligible to work in this country should be given U.S. jobs. But since there haven't been, for several years, enough legal workers in the U.S. to meet the demand of U.S. agricultural employers, it is the responsibility of the administration and Congress to authorize a useful program that enables capable, dependable and willing employees to come to the U.S. temporarily to do the jobs that domestic workers don't want.

"This final H-2A rule will only compound existing labor shortages. It is not the program needed by America's farmers and ranchers. By finalizing this rule the administration has failed U.S. agricultural employers. Its claims of needed worker protections as justification for the new rule are unfounded and an affront to America's farmers and ranchers.

"The ball is now in the court of the Congress to do what the administration has failed to do: to create a meaningful guest worker program that works fairly and honorably for employers and employees alike, thereby encouraging economic growth and more new jobs in an industry that is essential to nourishing a growing world population."

[Link to the Federal Register announcement of the H-2A Rule:](http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-2731.pdf)  
<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-2731.pdf>

[Link to the DOL's 'fact sheet' on the H-2A Rule:](http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/eta/eta20100198-fs.htm)  
<http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/eta/eta20100198-fs.htm>

**T** Manufacturing  
**Trebros**

The Future of Turf Harvesting

**We Harvest  
Innovation**

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

Premiere Advertiser  
**Turf News**