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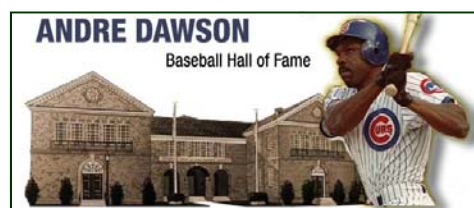


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Future baseball "Hall of Famer" says playing on natural grass saved his career.



Former major league baseball player Andre Dawson will soon realize his dream to be inducted into baseball's "Hall of Fame" in July.

The veteran outfielder played major league baseball for twenty-one years, eleven with Montreal Expos, six memorable seasons with the Chicago Cubs and two seasons each with the Boston Red Sox and the Florida Marlins.

Chicago Sun-Times staff reporter, Toni Ginnette reports that although Dawson suffered severe knee pain after playing ten years on Montreal's artificial turf and had to deal with long hours of treatment before and after each game, he prevailed.

After becoming a free agent Dawson agreed to a blank contract offer from the Chicago Cubs. He signed for the sum of \$500,000 which at the time was far less than he was worth.

"I was sticking my neck out," Dawson said. "They made me a low offer to get me to turn it down. But money wasn't the issue."

For Dawson, continuing to play was the issue. Dawson recently said that playing on natural grass saved his career.

Upon hearing the news of his induction, Dawson's former teammate and fellow Hall of Famer Ryne Sandberg echoed the praise. "He took pride in everything he did. A lot of people don't

realize what he went through to play nine innings, or in some cases eighteen if it was a doubleheader. He was there hours before everyone else getting treatment on his knees, and he was the last one to leave. He definitely wanted to play every day, and he had to go through a lot to play. He was great on the field, in the clubhouse and off the field and he never complained. Once the game started, he played all out. He'd steal a base when you weren't expecting it, run balls down in the gap. He played hard and he played to win and he never eased up because of his knees."

Dawson also lauded Chicago Cubs fans, who cheered his play in right field during his six seasons in Chicago.

Dawson was quoted as saying "Chicago, gave me new life, playing on the natural surface after Montreal ... it allowed me to relax and enjoy the game. The game was fun again."

Dawson is scheduled to be enshrined on July 25 in Cooperstown, N.Y. Although the Hall of Fame will decide which team logo will appear on the cap of Dawson's plaque we're sure he wishes it was that of the Chicago Cubs and his field of dreams - Wrigley Field . . . **where the comfort and scent of a freshly cut field of grass provided something special not only to Dawson, but to all the athletes who play there.**

Announcing TPI's Member-Get-A-Member Campaign



Each new member you recruit earns you a \$25 gift card for Amazon.com. - - and if you recruit three or more members and you will be entered into a Grand Prize Drawing that could win you one complimentary meeting registration and hotel accommodations for two nights at Disney World's Contemporary Hotel during the TPI Midwinter Conference in Orlando, FL in February 2011!

For more information contact
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OH! CANADA — Ontario Lawn Care Industry Files Federal Charge Against Ontario Government

TORONTO - A group representing dozens of lawn care companies is trying to bring charges against Ontario's environment minister and senior bureaucrats over the province's controversial pesticide ban.

A so-called "private information" request has been filed against Environment Minister John Gerretsen and senior ministry staff recently in a Kingston court, said Jeffrey Lowes, a spokesman for the group and a director at MREP Communications, a Kingston-based public relations firm.

The legal maneuver, if endorsed by the court, could result in federal charges being filed against Gerretsen and others by police or by a private individual, and there may be sufficient grounds for a criminal charge of fraud, he said.

The action stems from Ontario's pesticide regulations, which permit the use of azadirachtin, a chemical that is not approved for use in Canada, Lowes said.

"There's something fundamentally wrong with the whole system. We would be subjected to federal prosecution if we use the products if we abide by the Ontario laws, and if we abide by the federal laws, we would be prosecuted by the Ontario government.", he said.

The government's reclassification of pesticides is based on a methodology that "was not based in regulatory science," he said.

The action to seek a fraud charge stems from a report that formed the basis of that methodology, Lowes said.

The report, a peer-reviewed pesticide literature review of products used in the lawn care industry, was written by the Ontario College of Family Physicians, he said.

Lowes alleges that one doctor who was listed as having peer-reviewed the report was not aware that her name was on the report until it was published, and then denied she had reviewed the report.

Lowes, who said he represents a group of about 36 Ontario lawn care companies, said similar actions may be filed in other provinces that have adopted similar legislation governing pesticides.

Lowes said the action will be heard Feb. 17 in a Kingston court.

Ontario's ban, which took effect last April, prohibits the sale and cosmetic use of more than 80 ingredients and 250 products, as a way of protecting public health and the environment.

Quebec has also stirred up controversy with its pesticide ban, which sparked a North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) challenge.

Dow AgroSciences LLC, which manufactures banned weed killer 2,4-D, has decided to sue the federal government and seek at least \$2 million in damages, arguing that Quebec's rules violate Canada's trade obligations because it prohibits a product without any scientific basis.

SIDE NOTE: According to a December, 2008 *Economic Profile* by the Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation (Guelph, Ontario), in 2007 Ontario lawn care companies generated \$1.26 billion in income through providing turfgrass maintenance services. The same report lists \$577 million spent on equipment, supplies, and wages, as well as the equivalent of 20.8 thousand year-round full-time employees.

For frequently asked questions about Ontario's pesticide ban read William Gathercole's article which was featured in *TURF & Recreation*
http://www.turfandrec.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2472



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A perfect example of why we need to support higher education!

A series of typos in last month's Constant Contact cover letter for the E-Newsletter were brought to our attention by **Dr. David Kopec**, turfgrass extension specialist at the University of Arizona. Dr. Kopec informed us that Dr. Henry Indyk was a stickler for details and then pointed out the following copy errors regarding the Dr. Henry W. Indyk Scholarship Program. (see copy below)

2010 Scholarship Program Announced
Administered by *The Lawn Institute*, the Dr. Henry W. Indyk **Scholarshop** Program was **esrtablished** to demonstrate TPI's commitment to education and **offerring** a valuable benefit to members.
Deadline - Wednesday, February 17, 2010.



University of Arizona turfgrass researcher Dr. David Kopec.

We would like to thank Dr. Kopec for bringing these errors to our attention and we apologize for such obvious typographical errors; especially when you consider the item had to do with academic scholarships.

It is our hope this serves an example of why we need to support higher education.

Jim Novak

It should be noted that although the TPI E-Newsletter often writes things tongue-in-cheek, the above mentioned errors were not intentional.

TurfSide-UP

Who really has the right of way, aye?

Gordon's Park on Manitoulin Island, Ontario, Canada describes itself as a unique outdoor destination offering camping, tipi tenting, wilderness campsites, hiking trails, wildlife viewing and some great snowmobiling trails. In the case of the latter, you may find yourself in the middle of a traffic jam come rush hour. Why? **Because the locals need their grass.**



TurfSide-Up is a satirical feature of the TPI E-Newsletter. Any similarity to persons living or dead is purely coincidental except in the case of prominent public figures, where actions and characteristics are used for the purpose of parody and satire. *TurfSide-Up* does not necessarily reflect the opinions, beliefs and viewpoints of Turfgrass Producers International or its members. It is the satirical viewpoint of Jim Novak.

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A Tale of Two Cities . . .

Orlando, Florida and Pasadena, California

Orlando, Florida – Citrus Bowl

(Capital One Bowl — LSU vs. Penn State)

Sports writers, football TV commentators and college football fans couldn't resist taking a few jabs at the field conditions at Orlando's Citrus Bowl during the Capital One Bowl between LSU and Penn State and for good reason. These are just a few of the hundreds of quotes from around the country:

"Officials embarrassed by sloppy Citrus Bowl"
"Citrus Bowl field turns to mud in Capital One Bowl"
"Dismal condition of Citrus Bowl field was embarrassing for city"
"Rain-soaked field sinks LSU's Capital One Bowl outing"

If you were going to point a finger at the responsible party you might be hard pressed to have everyone agree on one area of shortsightedness.

Explanations as well as excuses are in abundance and some may or may not be valid depending on who you choose to talk to about the matter; new sod didn't have a chance to root, unusually cold weather followed by heavy rains, poor planning, etc.

"That was by far the worst football field I've ever seen in my life" said LSU wide receiver Brandon LaFell, a sentiment echoed by every player interviewed post-game. "In warm-ups, we were running straight ahead and making small cuts, the whole sheet of field — it would slide up and lift the mud underneath it."

Pasadena, California – Rose Bowl

(BCS National Championship — Alabama vs. Texas)



Ground crew begins cutting existing field grass prior to new turfgrass overlay in preparation for the BCS National Championship.

Photo courtesy of West Coast Turf

Meanwhile on the west coast we had Pasadena's Rose Bowl where an incredible team of professionals managed to place new sod over the existing field within a six day window in preparation for the BCS National Championship game.

Just a few hours after fans left the stadium following the Rose Bowl game between Ohio State and Oregon on New Year's Day, ground crews cut the existing grass to a quarter of an inch so they could roll new turfgrass sod in place for the BCS National Championship game between Alabama and Texas scheduled just six days later.

Modified 2/23/10

Continued on page 5

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A Tale of Two Cities . . . Pasadena, California – Rose Bowl (cont'd)

Because of the short preparation time frame, Rose Bowl Stadium officials decided to “overlay” the field — meaning that a new field would be put down directly on top of the existing field. How did they do it?

West Coast Turf (WCT) located in Palm Desert, California provided 110,000 sq. ft. of overseeded sand based bermudagrass sod. With no time for the new grass to root, the sod was intentionally cut extra thick to ensure it would be heavy enough to stay firmly in place.

Additional plans were in place in the event of heavy rains. Had it rained, a crew of 90 workers were prepared to replace only the painted end zones with new sod. Because weather conditions were favorable the entire 2-acre floor of the Rose Bowl was covered in new grass.

Danielle Marman, Marketing Director for WCT reported that it took 50 truckloads of sod, a WCT crew of 24 workers, along with another team of 24 from the Rose Bowl to complete the installation. In all some 60-foot rolls of turf were brought combined with a soaking of water one-16th-of-an-inch deep and followed by the weight of a heavy roller to offer further assurance the new grass wouldn't have to be anchored down.

WCT began harvesting the sod on New Year's day and continued through the night. Installation started hours after the Rose Bowl game and continued uninterrupted for 24 hours. For the next 5 days, Rose Bowl head groundskeeper, Will Schnell and his crew maintained the turf by watering at just the right levels, rolling and sweeping the grass, mowing at exactly the right time and length so it would hit its peak condition on game day. They also had the field freshly painted with all of the field lines and numerous logos necessary

for college football's biggest competition.

"The first thing we want to do is provide a great playing surface for the athletes," Schnell said. He added, "When you see a player go out there and put his hand down on the grass and say, 'Is this real or is it fake?' That's a tremendous compliment."

Marman reported that WCT had done this “over lay” at several locations including Chase Field for the Insight Bowl, Reliant Stadium for the Super Bowl, University of PHX Stadium for the Fiesta Bowl, and they did the overlay at Seahawk Stadium in Seattle over artificial turf. They also did a dry run at the Rose Bowl a few months earlier to make sure the BCS Championship field project went flawlessly.

Another planning plus, WCT harvested the newly used sod on January 11 (leaving the original field in place) and planned on bringing approximately 6,000 square feet (including the end zones and logos) back to their farm for processing it into regular cut small rolls where it will be shipped to New Jersey to Stadium Associates who in turn will offer the sod as a BCS National Championship Game SOD collectable.



Some of the sod that remained will be planted in the end zones of Rose Bowl Stadium for “repair work” since there was so much paint used for the Rose Bowl game, and some will be recycled to other locations in need of sod.

Such is a tale of two cities.



WCT farm manager, **Larry Contreras** is the father of the BCS sod! In other words—he planted it, talked to it, watered it, fertilized it, overseeded it, and treated it with TLC 24/7 for an entire year.

Photos courtesy of West Coast Turf

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Lawns don't waste water ... people do!

An inexpensive piece of plastic, or something as simple as a used tuna can aid in conserving water, help the environment and save money.

It has been suggested that about 15 percent of homeowners water their lawn frequently, whether their lawn needs the water or not, and yet the other 85 percent still have lawns. Why?

As an example, Chicago, IL (USA) gets about 36 inches of rain a year on average but its grasses need about 43 inches. So why all the excess watering?

Homeowners need to be informed that overwatering is bad for their grass. It encourages weak, stunted roots that can't keep the grass alive when the weather gets dry. It fosters fungus diseases and provides a perfect home for root-munching grubs.

Homeowners also have to be aware of what happens to the water that their grass doesn't need and can't soak up. It runs off into storm drains and, combined with sewage, increases the load on treatment plants.

There are other environmental costs too! The water from that outdoor faucet had to be taken from a lake or a well; filtered and treated with chemicals to make it safe enough to drink and pumped to a home or a residential area, at a cost in energy as well as tax dollars. Using potable water for lawns is wasteful, and in the case of city's like Chicago, "your lawn doesn't really need fluoride," according to Debra Shore, commissioner of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago.

In a world in which fresh water is growing ever more scarce, "we have a moral obligation to show that we are using it wisely and carefully and respectfully," Shore is quoted as saying.

So what can those of us in the green industry do to help build awareness?

- Encourage your customers and/or suggest they advise their customers that a simple low cost rain gauge helps them to know how much rain has fallen or how much water they have distributed on their lawn when sprinkling.
- When tempted to water, homeowners should get a screwdriver and check if the soil is moist within the plants' root zone, 3 or 4 inches down.
- Lawns go dormant, during dry periods. Grass naturally quits growing and dries out in the hottest part of summer, then revives and greens up when the fall rains come. There is no need to water just to force the grass to stay green all the time.
- When they do water, they should run their sprinkler long enough to lay down the equivalent of one inch of rain. (A rain gauge or even a well placed empty tuna can is ideal to check water volume.) They need not water again until that screwdriver test suggests otherwise.
- Watch the weather. Rainwater is free, and it doesn't contain chlorine or other chemicals found in most water systems.



- Collect and use rainwater. According to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, about 700 gallons of water rush off a single rooftop during a rain storm. Place a rain barrel underneath a gutter to create a mini-reservoir for use on indoor and outdoor plants.
- Water in off-peak hours. Early-morning is the best.
- Sprinkle efficiently, making sure you're not watering streets, driveways, sidewalks or decks.
- Don't mow in the heat of the day. Freshly cut grass loses water and evaporation accelerates the process, leaving the lawn thirsting to recover.

People who use water just to keep their lawn a plush green need to realize their lawn doesn't have to be green to be healthy.

It's time for heavy water users to start weaning their lawns and understand that excessive watering is unnecessary and wasteful.

If there is one thing researchers unanimously agree upon it's the fact that lawns don't waste water . . . people do.



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"Turfgrass sod in urban areas and communities can aid in the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions, mitigate the heat island effect, reduce energy consumption and contribute to efforts to reduce global warming trends."

BOARING

"This little piggy went to market" ... but the other 5,999,999 are all over the United States.

The growing population of wild boars across the U.S. and other parts of the world, has become an ecological disaster. They devour huge amounts of crops, tear up plants and lawns, and drive out native wildlife by outcompeting them. Wild boars can rip a turfgrass field to shreds and make a field of turf look like an uncontrolled rototiller was at work.



The photos below show what some wild boars did to **David Doguet's** Bladerunner Farms in Poteet, Texas a few years ago.



Above photos: Jim Novak

Federal and state agencies report that wild boars have more than doubled in population and range in the past 20 years. Two decades ago, between 500,000 and two million wild pigs roamed the United States, according to Jack Mayer, a scientist with the U.S. Department of Energy's Savannah River National Laboratory in Aiken, S.C., and a national expert on the problem. Now the population numbers around six million.

In 1982, feral pigs were documented in 17 states. Today, they're found in 44 states, with an estimated two million in Texas alone and one million in Florida. Wildlife experts say the hogs, weighing up to 500 to 750 pounds, are increasingly running roughshod in rural areas, suburbs and even a few cities, digging up cemeteries, gardens and lawns, causing car wrecks -- and occasionally attacking people. "They eat our crops. They root up our wetlands. They compete with our native species. They damage property. They run into our cars," said Mayer. Estimated damage to agriculture in the state of Texas alone is around \$52 million.

Experts are trying to address the problem by developing edible methods of swine birth control. "The game plan is that they eventually will be able to have male birth control put in bait," Mayer said.



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Turf News

SEND US YOUR STORIES

We have been asked why some members get coverage in the monthly newsletter and others do not. The answer is quite simple, they provide us with news items or personal stories that we think will be of interest to our readers.

The TPI E-Newsletter is your publication, as such, members of Turfgrass Producers International are encouraged to send in stories, photos, news clippings, etc., that might be of interest to fellow members and our readers. We also encourage green industry associations, turfgrass extension specialists and researchers to do the same.

We are open to just about anything, be it business-related or light-hearted humor. You don't have to be a writer, just drop us a note and we'll give you a call. Members enjoy reading what other members are doing so please feel free to share. If we think your story might be of interest we will be happy to share it with others. The following is a sampling of stories (in no particular order) that we would welcome for upcoming issues.

- Dealing with unexpected surprises
- Open house activities
- Employee functions
- Recognition from community organizations and local associations
- Creative PR, marketing and promotion ideas
- New website postings
- Assisting university researchers
- Resolving problems
- Honors and awards
- Overcoming obstacles
- Hobbies
- Employee incentive programs
- Business suggestions
- Diversification
- Speaking engagements
- Effective use of marketing materials
- Humorous experiences
- Newspaper write-ups
- Comments on TPI related activities such as Conferences and Conventions
- Photos of vanity license plates that have turf, grass, sod, green, etc.

Send your stories, ideas, photos and suggestions to:

jnovak@TurfGrassSod.org




COMING SOON

Project EverGreen will soon release a series of banners that serve to promote the benefits of green space.

Below is one sample from the proposed series that will be available later this year. Additional information will be forthcoming soon.

Did you know? There is a significant link between the value of a property and its proximity to parks, greenbelts and other green spaces. Studies of three neighborhoods in Boulder, CO indicated that property values decreased by \$4.20 for each foot away from a greenbelt.



- PROJECT -
EverGreen

Getting Our Message Out!



Did you know that Turfgrass Producers International has a column featured on ATHLETIC TURF's website every month to convey the benefits of turfgrass to groundskeepers, landscape specialists, sports field managers and other green industry professionals?

Visit their website at <http://www.athleticturf.net/> to view current and past articles from Turfgrass Producers International.

As featured in:



Do you want WaterSense playing on your turf?

Jan 1, 2009
By: Jim Novak

The EPA WaterSense Program began as most government programs do, with the best of intentions. The program's goal was and is to propose specifications for "Water-Efficient Single-Family New Homes" that would help conserve a precious resource — water. But as history often shows, sometimes the best of intentions can evolve into something that can do more harm than good.

The idea behind the EPA WaterSense Program sounded reasonable, begin by www.epa.gov/watersense



Images courtesy Jim Novak

Turfgrass: Smell the difference it makes

Jul 10, 2009
By: Jim Novak

attention of turf specialists and much turfgrass specifications area be turfgrass preparation of

Those of us involved in any aspect of the Green Industry more than likely can rattle off a reasonable list of environmental and health benefits that natural turfgrass offers. But it's just as likely that there's one positive attribute most of us haven't yet sniffed out, that's the health benefit associated with the scent of freshly cut grass.

Dr. Nikolaus Lavidis along with Ph.D. students Elizabeth Boff and El Levin Leung of the University of Queensland's school of biomedical sciences in Brisbane, Australia set out to study the long-term effect of



Green, Green Grass of Home – But Where's Home?

Apr 16, 2009
By: Jim Novak

Although this photo of a soldier using scissors to trim grass on a tiny plot of turf at what appears to be some remote location has been circulating on the internet for several years, who and where the soldier is has been a mystery.

The soldier has been identified on various web sites as an Australian, a Canadian and an American. Some sites suggest the photo was taken in Afghanistan; others suggest it is in Kuwait, one report states it was taken near a small village in Iraq, and another pinpoints the location as a camp outside of Baghdad. And yet another site suggested the photo wasn't taken overseas at all, but photographed at an unidentified training camp somewhere in the Carolinas.

So who is this celebrity soldier, where did he come from and where was the photo actually taken?



Photo: Steve Pinc



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