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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)

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## TPI MIDWINTER CONFERENCE HAS A NEW NAME TPI 2014 INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE & FIELD DAY

JOIN US IN ORLANDO  
FEBRUARY 24-27, 2014



You may have noticed that this year's TPI Midwinter Conference is now being referred to as the **TPI 2014 International Education Conference & Field Day**.

We feel this name change better reflects the broad scope and content of this year's conference which has over eleven hours of educational sessions featuring more than twenty speakers. In addition to numerous breakout sessions, panel discussions and various business and social functions the overall program provides the perfect atmosphere for getting acquainted with fellow members.

The concurrent breakout sessions will include panel discussions featuring

Turfgrass Extension Specialists, TPI members describing how they diversified their business, an "Ask The Expert" panel of The Lawn Institute Research Advisors and several "Show & Tell" presentations. When you consider the scope of informative presentations, two days of indoor exhibits, a Field Day and multiple networking opportunities, this year's conference is sure to be one of the most informative, educational and engaging events in TPI's history.

Plan to join us in Orlando at the **Disney Contemporary Resort** February 24- 27, 2014!

For more info or to register go to [www.turfgrassod.org/](http://www.turfgrassod.org/).

# FLORIDA CONFERENCE POST TOUR

FEBRUARY 28–MARCH 4, 2014



**Tobey Wagner** of **Sod Solutions** will be hosting a group of Turfgrass Producers of Australia members after TPI's International Education Conference & Field Day. Tobey along with the Australian members would like to invite TPI members to join them for the "Florida Conference - Post Tour" being held February 28 - March 4, 2014.

Be advised the tour is limited to 50 registrants. A minimum of 25 guests will be needed for the tour to proceed. Reservations are on a first come first served bases and the **deadline to register is December 19, 2013.**

## PRELIMINARY ITINERARY

### February 28:

Depart Disney Contemporary Hotel  
**University of Florida Research Center**, Gainesville,  
and a one night hotel stay - near Kennedy Space Center

### March 1-2:

#### **Kennedy Space Center**

See where history was made as the Saturn V rockets propelled mankind to the moon. Two night hotel stay - West Palm Beach, Miami or Florida Keys (TBD)

### March 3:

#### **JW Turf & Ranch** - Lake Okeechobee

See a unique linear irrigation system, 1000 acre turf production, and spend a day at a working ranch. Also to be seen are exotic birds, ducks, gators and a few wild surprises! One night hotel stay – Sarasota, Florida

### March 4:

#### **SMR Ranch & Turf Farm** -Lakewood Ranch

One of the largest developments in Florida, SMR Ranch features multiple golf courses, polo fields, athletic fields, a 2000 acre turf farm, plant nursery production, cattle farming, and citrus production. SMR Turf is an operation you don't want to miss! One night hotel stay - Orlando (**near airport for March 5th departures**)

### Approximate Cost:

Bus and hotel would be approximately \$1,050.00 (possibly less depending on the number of participants). Meals and tour costs would be at an additional cost.

A \$500.00 deposit will be required to confirm your registration. Remaining balance is due two weeks prior to the trip.

### For more detailed information or to make your reservations please contact:

[broberts@sodsolutions.com](mailto:broberts@sodsolutions.com) or  
[twagner@sodsolutions.com](mailto:twagner@sodsolutions.com)

Sod Solutions  
Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina  
**843.849.1288**

## There are things that just can't be measured . . . like a warm HELLO!

By Jim Novak

“We want everyone to feel at home and know they are part of a great organization . . .”

Do you recall the first time you attended a TPI event? Remember that feeling that comes with entering a crowded room not really knowing too many people, or walking the exhibit area in hopes of seeing a sales representative you might recognize, or scanning the room in search of a fellow turfgrass producer you might happen to know from your local area? We've all been there, but do you remember?

For those of us who have been attending TPI events over the years we've come to know a good many people, made some lasting friendships and feel like we're part of an extended family. But for the “first time attendee” they may feel like they're more of an observer than a participant.

With that thought in mind take a moment to consider some things we simply can't measure but leave a lasting first impression. They are the little things we leave behind every day. It could be a simple "good morning" to a passerby or a nod of approval to a colleague or a co-worker. We never know how these little things impact people. They are those seemingly minor gestures that make people feel good, feel noticed; a passing comment, or grateful word that let's them know someone is listening, or reading, or watching, or taking notice.



**Shari Lain** of Pine Island Turf Nursery, Pine Island, NY and **Wendy Davey** of Evergreen Turf, Pakenham, Victoria, Australia.

PHOTO: Lynn Grooms

The word “hello” falls comfortably into the category of those things that can't be measured. Just ask any “first time” attendee at a TPI conference or convention how welcomed and comfortable they felt when a TPI member approached them and extended their hand while expressing a warm “hello” and a fond welcome.

If you're going to be attending TPI's 2014 International Education Conference and Field Day in Orlando this February, and we hope you are, please make it a point to look among the crowd for someone who might be a “first time attendee” (they'll be wearing a red colored lanyard for easy identification). Be sure to introduce yourself and welcome them to TPI. We're expecting a good number of first timers and we want all of them to feel as if they are participants in a great organization, not just observers.

If you're among one of those “first time attendees” in Orlando, please be sure to come to the First Timers Orientation Meeting on Monday morning so you can get acquainted with members of the board and receive a warm TPI welcome.

We want everyone to feel at home and know they are part of a great organization and there's no better way to make them feel welcomed than to extend a sincere and warm HELLO.

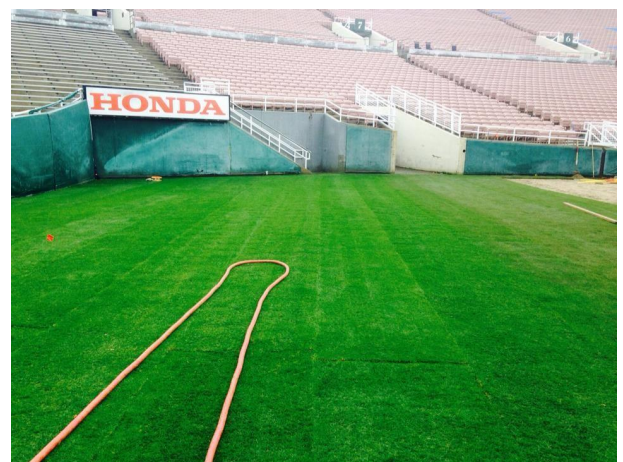


# GETTING READY FOR THE ROSE BOWL



West Coast Turf/Western Sod crews have already started removing the old Rose Bowl field with their new technology and have begun preparing to install a new field for the January 1st Rose Bowl with another field to be installed on top of that for the BCS Championship game January 6th! It's a busy time in Pasadena for the folks at West Coast Turf!

The Rose Bowl (officially the Rose Bowl Game presented by Vizio for sponsorship purposes) is an annual American college football bowl game, usually played on January 1 (New Year's Day) at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California. When New Year's Day falls on a Sunday, the game is played on Monday, January 2nd. The Rose Bowl is nicknamed "The Granddaddy of Them All" because it is the oldest bowl game. It was first played in 1902, and has been played annually since 1916. Since 1945, it has been the highest attended college football bowl game. It is a part of the Tournament of Roses "America's New Year Celebration", which also includes the historic Tournament of Roses Parade. Except in the years when the Rose Bowl Game served as the BCS National Championship Game, it has continued to be played in the afternoon. In 2014, the Rose Bowl Game will celebrate its 100th game with Michigan State taking on Stanford.



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## FAIRGREEN SOD FARMS DONATES TOYS TO TOY MOUNTAIN CHARITY



### SHARING THE SPIRIT OF THE SEASON



Fairgreen Sod Farms in Markham, Ontario, Canada recently donated 500 toys to CTV Toy Mountain Charity in Toronto. CTV is Canadian Television (News Toronto) that has a toy drive every year. As you can see from the above

picture the toys were delivered on one of their trucks. Our sincere thanks to **Cam Fairty** and **Matt Gauthier** of Fairgreen Sod Farms and to **Ian True** of Trebro Manufacturing for bringing this story to our attention.

## HOLIDAY GREETINGS TO ALL

During this special time of the year family and friends come together to celebrate the season and recall fond memories of holidays past and present with loved ones. It is a time to rekindle old acquaintances, reflect on that which is most precious to us, and share our joy with those we hold most dear.

Wherever your travels may take you, be it in the comfort of your own home, or in the home of friends or family, the entire staff at *Turfgrass Producers International* wishes you a happy holiday and extends our warm wishes for a healthy and prosperous New Year to you and yours.



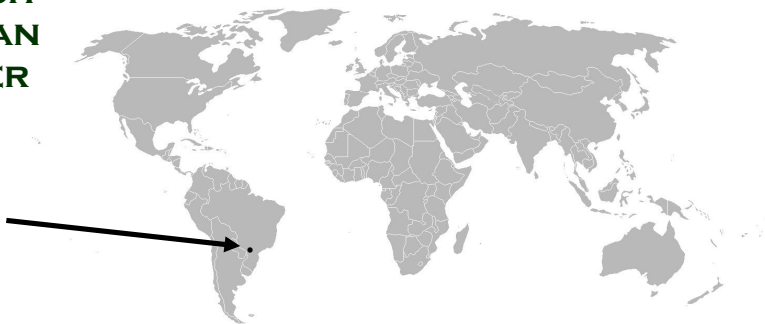
## MEMBERS FROM BRAZIL VISIT THE TPI OFFICE AND HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SEE OTHER MEMBERS IN THE AREA.

By Veronica Iwanski

### Qually Grama Turf Farm

Tatura, Sao Paulo  
BRAZIL

<http://www.quallygrama.com.br/>



What a wonderful experience it was to have **Isaac Miranda** (pictured above with Veronica Iwanski, Geri Hanna and Jim Novak) and **Fabio Cortese** of Qually Grama turf farm visit the TPI office this past November!

Isaac and Fabio traveled to Chicago, Illinois from Sao Paulo, Brazil specifically to visit the TPI office and travel to Manteno to see where the 2013 TPI Summer Convention & Field Days was held...and they did just that!

Our first stop, and most memorable, was Payne Sod Farm in Manteno, Illinois. **Ron Payne** (owner) was anticipating our arrival early on a Monday morning. We hopped in the truck and began touring all the turfgrass fields and met up with son, **Justin** who was in the process of harvesting – probably one of the last harvests for this season. Our Brazilian visitors were thrilled because they had never seen an automated Trebro HarveStack in use before, at least not in person! Ron's hospitality and his overall joy, love and passion for what he does left a lasting impression on Isaac & Fabio. Our tour of Payne Sod Farm ended when Ron (after a little encouragement from Isaac) picked up his acoustic guitar and broke into a song! It was a great experience, and one that our guests will never forget.

We then headed around the corner to Summit Seed to meet with **Ron Edwards**, tour the facility and have some lunch. Afterwards we drove to Plainfield to end our day with **Ken Warpinski** at Central Sod.

The next day began with a visit to the TPI office. Isaac couldn't wait to share the video he had taken of Ron singing the day before! Then we were off to Lurvey Landscape Supply and EcoTurf Midwest. Touring Lurvey Landscape Supply in Des Plaines with owner **Mark Lurvey**, son **Aaron** and **Clyde Porter** was very informative and quite enjoyable. Unfortunately we ran out of time and were unable to visit **Ed Glatt** at EcoTurf Midwest, but greatly appreciated his offer to stop by.

Isaac and Fabio asked me to express their gratitude and great appreciation to everyone for making their visit to Chicago a very memorable and educational experience! The hospitality that was shown by all was quite humbling for these international members. My sincere thanks to everyone for the warmth you extended to our guests!

- Veronica Iwanski