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Experience TPI

Members address benefits of TPI in NEW video.

A new video produced by Turfgrass Producers International features unscripted and candid testimonials from TPI members. Hearing members comment in their own words why they enjoy being a TPI member and participating in TPI events is much more persuasive than a scripted narrative with bells and whistles according to TPI's public relations manager, Jim Novak. "It's evident throughout the video that members not only care about their business, they also care about the industry and their fellow turfgrass producers," Novak said.

TPI's president, Bobby Winstead of Winstead Turf Farms in Arlington, Tennessee remarked, "The reason I keep coming back to TPI is, it virtually puts you in the same room with all your peers from around the world; all the turfgrass producers that are the movers and shakers. They're the ones that are in this organization, and they're the ones you can learn the most from over time."

Andy Hutchison of Somerset Seed & Sod in Somerset, Virginia and his wife Audrey were attending their first TPI Convention & Field Days. "Well, I like all the information and ideas that we've gained from other sod growers that we wouldn't have had an opportunity to have gotten if we stayed at home like we have been for the last several years. This is the first year that we've been able to come because we have such a small business and so few employees that I felt my business might suffer by the fact that I would come to one of these conferences; but in reality, I think we gained more out of it than we potentially would have lost by not coming," said Hutchison.



Dave Dymond of H&H Sod Company in Kenansville, Florida states, "If you want to learn more about the industry than your little area, and you want to know what's going on in the nation and internationally, you name it, you have an opportunity to talk to people that are growing turf just like you on a one-on-one basis. TPI is a great value to me because I learn something every time I come and I've been coming for 12 or 13 years to all the conventions."

Cont'd on page 2

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Bob Weerts of Blue Valley Sod Farm in Winnebago, Minnesota offered this comment about TPI's Field Day, "TPI Field Day is an event! All the equipment dealers are here. They show all the new equipment, everything that's going on, new stuff, they bring all their stuff here and they show it. You've got farmers walking around, you can ask questions of everybody that's here. TPI Field Day is excellent."

Lisa Huebolt of Trigon Turf Sciences, a first time exhibitor and new member of TPI offered this thought, "I have to say I'm very impressed with the set-up, I'm impressed with the organization, I'm really happy to be a new member. It's a high quality group of people and vendors here and we really like being a part of it."

Warren Bell of Biograss Turf farm in Sandy, Utah remarked, "Our experience has been that we've made some really, really close friends and when we're able to sit down during the meetings we share information with one another that you can't do with anybody's that close to you, geographically close to you. If I'm sharing information with someone that's in New York that's 2500 miles away from my market area, we can really open up to one another and help one another. And those networking opportunities and those friendships, they've allowed me to pick up the phone and call someone that I trust, someone whose operation I've seen and ask them some complicated questions and get some real good straight forward answers on ways that we can resolve problems and create market opportunities and perhaps duplicate some of the things that we're doing in our market areas."

Perhaps Fred Pittillo of Turf Mountain Sod in Hendersonville, North Carolina said it best as he reflected on his long relationship with TPI, "Consider TPI. It's been good to me for 25 years because my intention from the very first, was to go and learn and make it pay for all it cost me plus more . . . and it has!"

The video can be viewed on TPI's website at <http://turfgrasssod.org/publisher/hot-topics/2013/1/21/experience-tpi-2013-video> and on TPI's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/TurfgrassProducersInternational>.

Or just CLICK on any of the photos that appear on this page.



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Welcome to the

Turfgrass Information File

A Unique Resource for Turfgrass Researchers, Practitioners, and Students



200,000 Reasons to Use TGIF!

A Tremendous Resource Available to All TPI Members!



The Turfgrass Information File of Michigan State University Libraries reached a major milestone as their number of original descriptive records surpassed 200,000!

TGIF's first original descriptive record was created in September of 1984. Since then they have kept the gears turning for a steady 28 years to reach this momentous occasion.

Thanks goes to the staff and student employees who, over the years, helped to achieve such an amazing goal! Without the dedication and commitment of these individuals TGIF would not have been able to grow in quantity and quality to become the quintessential turfgrass information resource it is today.

The Turfgrass Information Center (TIC), a specialized unit at the Michigan State University Libraries (MSU), contains the most comprehensive publicly available collection of turfgrass educational materials in the world.

The Turfgrass Information File (TGIF) uses over 300,000 keywords and covers the full scope of the turfgrass industry with over 35% linked to full-text articles. The database monitors over 320 journals and magazines (including **Turf News** from 1977 to the present and back issues of **TPI's Business Management Newsletter**).



In addition, the database includes records for extension bulletins, books and book chapters, technical reports, thesis and dissertations, web documents, published Q&As, video interviews and more!

Access to TGIF is a significant added benefit to Turfgrass Producers International members at no charge, this valuable database is only available to others for a fee.

To access TGIF go to the "Members Only" tab on the TPI website and click on Turfgrass Information File (TGIF) and enter your Username and Password.

www.turfgrassod.org/

Another benefit of TPI Membership

ACCESS TO TGIF

Scientists Confirm - - Proper Use of Lawn Care Products DOES NOT Pose a Health Threat

Environmental Health Research Foundation presented research data on lawn care products and benefits to Connecticut Environmental Council reporting that the findings by noted scientists confirm that proper use DOES NOT pose a health threat.

CHANTILLY, Va., December 6, 2012— John Heinze, PhD and executive director of the Environmental Health Research Foundation recently presented the Foundation's latest research findings on the use of lawn care products at the Connecticut Environmental Council's annual meeting. Heinze joined presenters from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program, the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, and the University of Connecticut. Heinze presented his research as well as that of a colleague, Katherine von Stackelberg, Sc.D who is principal of E Risk Sciences and research manager at the Harvard Center for Risk Analysis.

Recently, von Stackelberg released findings on four of the most commonly used lawn care products. She reviewed research findings and data and evaluated the strength of the association between exposure and potential health effects. She reviewed the toxicological, epidemiological, and exposure data for bifenthrin, azoxystrobin, 2, 4-D and MCPA (a member of the same chemical family as 2,4-D). Her findings were recently published in the peer-reviewed Journal of Toxicology ("A Systemic Review of Carcinogenic Outcomes and Associated Mechanisms from Exposure to Concentration of 2,4-D and MCPA in the Environment.")

After completing the research, von Stackelberg stated, "I wouldn't hesitate to let my children and dogs play on a lawn where lawn care products have been used as long as the products were applied according to their respective labels."

Heinze presented von Stackelberg's research as well as his research review of the scientific literature on the benefits of lawns, parks, and playing fields, collectively called "green spaces." His findings indicate the positive impact to the environment from green spaces, including prevention of erosion and run-off; water and air purification; energy and cost savings; and freshening of air (oxygen generation).

Health benefits included recreational space, stress reduction and increased physical activity leading to reduced obesity, improved health and increased longevity.

Heinze's overall conclusions in the presentation were:

- Evidence of risk from use of four of the most widely used lawn care actives (azoxystrobin, bifenthrin, MCPA and 2,4-D) was found to be marginal to non-existent.
- There are substantial environmental and health benefits from healthy, well-maintained lawns, parks and playing fields.
- Optimal benefits require healthy, well maintained lawns, parks and playing fields, which can only be achieved with the responsible use of lawn care products, including pesticides.

"As Dr. Stackelberg has noted on her report, significant research has been done on these products," Heinze explained, "and the weight of evidence indicates very little potential for adverse health effects associated with environmental exposures." He continued, "The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency carefully monitors and approves lawn care products for use and has, over the years, eliminated questionable products from use on lawns." Heinze further explained that, as part of the pesticide registration process, U.S. EPA evaluates and in some cases conducts independent research to evaluate potential risks and define acceptable uses. It has also determined that there is little or no health risk associated with exposure to bifenthrin, azoxystrobin, and MCPA—when the products are used as directed.

"Green space, particularly in urban areas, offers significant health benefits, which are described in the Environmental Health Research Foundation's review of the literature. Maximizing these benefits may require the use of products to ensure a healthy, thriving green space, and the goal is to use products with the greatest efficacy and the least potential for risk," stated von Stackelberg.

The Environmental Health Research Foundation research reports along with von Stackelberg's Journal of Toxicology article are available online at www.ehrf.info.

Cornell University Lays Down the Lawn



Why would one of America's most prestigious universities place natural turfgrass sod in their library? Apparently the feel and sight of natural turfgrass has a 'cognitive relaxing effect.'

Don't bother to sharpen your pencils trying to determine what this cost the university, because it didn't cost the university a cent. The cost of the turf, its delivery and related tarps were all covered by donations from the school's alumni association.

So how did the students feel about this temporary green renovation? They reportedly liked it.

This is the second year the university has laid down a patch of grass inside the university's Olin Library and the response has been extremely favorable, especially during Final's Week when a "cognitive relaxing effect" is especially welcomed!

The National Mall UPDATE - Appointment of Turf Manager



To support its ongoing turf and soil reconstruction project the National Park Service has announced it will be welcoming a Turf Manager this month to manage the grounds of the 770-acre park - maintaining the new turf's drainage, redesigned irrigation system and granite curbs, all of which are designed to improve water quality and make the National Mall more sustainable.

Of historical interest — This is the first time in the history of the National Park Service that an individual will be appointed to such a position.

TPI commends The National Park Service for their timely and beneficial decision.

PHOSPHORUS ROCKS!

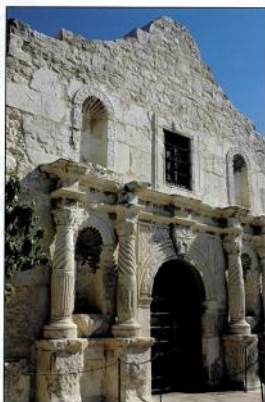
Crystal Green™ plant-activated slow-release fertilizer technology. Phosphorus when your turf needs it. Peace of mind when it doesn't.





Turfgrass Producers International Conference – Texas Style

Turfgrass Producers International (TPI) will be holding their 2013 Midwinter Conference in San Antonio, Texas February 11 thru February 15. The beautiful San Antonio Marriott Rivercenter will serve as the host hotel.



It's anticipated that close to 400 attendees from around the world will be attending the event and they're sure to discover that San Antonio has something that will appeal to the entire family; from its famous Riverwalk and outstanding restaurants, to treasured historical sites, the San Antonio Zoo and the beautiful San Antonio Botanical Gardens.

Monday (February 11) will be comprised of meetings by various Working Groups and Committees to discuss association-related business. The Early Bird Reception later that evening will give those attendees who arrived early to participate in pre-conference activities a chance to socialize and get acquainted.

Pre-Conference activities for Tuesday (February 12) include The Lawn Institute Memorial Golf Tournament which raises money for turfgrass research and education. TPI is also planning an optional San Antonio Custom Tour that will give visitors an opportunity to see unique sections of the city, specialty shops and galleries, take a cruise on the famous Riverwalk, tour of the Alamo and take in other historical sites.

A pre-conference seminar on Wednesday (February 13), titled "Passing the Family Torch: The Business of Successful Planning" should prove worthwhile to many in attendance who are looking to protect their future.

(See ALAMO CITY, Page 20)

Our thanks to John Cosper, executive director of Turfgrass Producers of Texas (TPT) for promoting the **2013 TPI Midwinter Conference** in San Antonio in the December issue of their monthly newsletter the "Pallet".

In addition to a great cover story they also featured a full-page ad on the inside backcover promoting the Conference which will be held at the Marriott San Antonio Rivercenter — February 11-15.

For more information about TPI's Midwinter Conference →



Or visit <http://turfgrassod.org/publisher/events/2012/10/30/tpi-midwinter-conference>.

TurfSide-UP



There' are no "butts" about it! A passing motorist took the above photo of a lawncare professional mowing artificial turf.

Don't mow artificial turf unless you want to be the BUTT of jokes.

When the Townsville City Council in Queensland, Australia contracted a crew to maintain the artificial grass on a median strip at an intersection, they didn't expect them to mow it, but that's what motorists and nearby store owners and their customers saw them doing.

After the giggles subsided a council spokesperson said the lawncare professionals weren't really mowing the grass, they were using a lawn mower to vacuum up cigarette butts.

The city council has since told the contractor to come up with an alternative means of cleaning up the artificial turf as members of the Townsville City Council said they are already the butt of too many jokes.

Where in the world is TPI represented? EVERYWHERE!

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

SINO-GREEN

Hainan Island & Guangdong Province
China

<http://www.greenbull.com.au/>



Hainan Licensed Nursery

Location: Wenchang, Hainan Island
Planting Area: 56.83 hectares
Varieties: Bermudagrass & Seashore Paspalum
Bermudagrass: TifGrand, TifEagle, TifSport
Paspalum: Salam, SeaDwarf, Sealsle2000

Guangdong Licensed Nursery

Location: Qingyuan, Guangdong
Planting Area: 5 hectares
Varieties: Seashore Paspalum

Sino-Green is one of the global certified growers of the International Genetic Assurance Program (ITGAP) administered by the Georgia Crop Development Association and the University of Georgia. Sino-Green is authorized by the U.S. patent holder and certified as an International Licensed Grower of Salam, SeaDwarf, TifEagle, TifSport, SI-2000 and TifGrand. Since 2007, we have been instrumental in introducing Salam, SeaDwarf, TifEagle, TifSport, SI-2000 and TifGrand from the United States.

Sino-Green currently has nurseries located in Hainan Island, Guangdong province, southern China and Shanghai, with a total nursery area of 1,200,000 square meters. Our nurseries are built and maintained in accordance to the International Genetic Assurance

Program (ITGAP) standards. ITGAP inspectors regularly inspect and certify our nurseries for purity and uniformity in accordance with ITGAP production standards.

Sino-Green is committed to providing our customers the highest quality, pure, uniform warm-season turfgrass, effective establishment programs and on-going professional support services by our certified agronomist.

Sino-Green Turf Company, Ltd. is a licensed commercial Salam® Seashore Paspalum grower. It has nursery operations in Hainan and Guangdong, China. Its Hainan nursery has a sprig washing facility, allowing it to sell washed, soil-free sprigs on an international basis. It is also licensed to produce and sell (1) Tifeagle bermudagrass, (2) Tifsport bermudagrass, (3) Seadwarf Seashore Paspalum, and (4) Tifway 419 Bermudagrass.

SINO—GREEN

A proud Member of
Turfgrass Producers International



Remembering Doug Fender

Doug Fender, TPI's former executive director (1983 to 2004) passed away unexpectedly on December 20, 2012.



Doug Fender grew up in northeastern Colorado and after high school he went on to the University of Colorado at Boulder where he received both his Bachelor of Science and Master of Arts degrees in journalism.

After a handful of odd jobs, he became the director of communications for the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America in 1973.

Five years later he became the director of public relations for the Million Dollar Round Table (MDRT). At that time, the MDRT was an independent, international life insurance sales achievement association with over 21,000 members in 41 countries.

In 1983 an opportunity presented itself and Doug became the Executive Director of the American Sod Producers Association (ASPA), which would later become Turfgrass Producers International (TPI). He continued on as TPI's executive director for over 20 years until his retirement in December of 2004. Over that twenty year span he doubled TPI's membership bringing it to over 1,100. Member countries outside the U.S. which once numbered just 10 also increased to over 40 representative countries.

Doug's contribution, commitment and dedication to TPI was always evident. He had a personal connection with TPI members and their families. For Doug, TPI was much more than an association, it was an extended family and over the years he developed warm and loyal friendships not just within TPI but throughout the green industry.

He was instrumental in forming the International Turf Producers Foundation (ITPF) in 1994 (now known as The Lawn Institute). Under his direction the founda-

tion raised more than one-half million dollars to fund turfgrass-related research and support education. He also served on the Executive Committee and Board of Directors of Project Evergreen, a coalition representing all segments of the green industry dedicated to promoting the positive values of landscapes.

For nearly 20 years he was a director of the National Council of Agricultural Employers. He also created a coalition of the Irrigation Association, the American Nursery & Landscape Association and the Associated Landscape Contractors of America to create a website that addressed landscape water conservation techniques.

In 2002 the Turf and Ornamental Communicators Association (TOCA) recognized his contributions by naming him the Environmental Communicator of the Year. Upon his retirement in 2004 he was also the proud recipient of TPI's Honorary Membership Award.

After his retirement, Doug continued to conduct TPI Study Tours (a program he began in 1986) serving as an ambassador and a representative of the turfgrass industry. He provided many TPI members with the opportunity to meet with and form close relationships with fellow turfgrass producers around the globe. Among the countries he visited were: Australia, New Zealand, England, Scotland, Austria, Netherlands, China, Hong Kong, Chile, Argentina, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Iceland, Denmark, Norway and Sweden.

Doug could engage anyone in friendly conversation and often make you smirk, smile or laugh with his captivating stories and clever humor. Long after his retirement it was obvious that Doug continued to care a great deal about TPI and he treasured the many friendships he made over the years. He will be greatly missed.

— by Jim Novak