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It's mentioned in TPI's new video that the association currently has members in more than 40 countries throughout the world. That was somewhat evident during TPI's recent Summer Convention, which was held July 23-25 in Chicago, and at its Doug Fender* Memorial Field Day at Payne Sod Farm in Manteno, Illinois hosted by Ron and Justin Payne.

The event drew nearly 500 attendees representing more than 100 farms including turfgrass producers from Australia, Canada, Chili, China, England, Netherlands, South Africa and throughout the United States.

Attendees had a great opportunity to see live equipment demos, visit with nearly 50 exhibitors and do what they do best – network with their fellow turfgrass producers.

Convention highlights include an Information & Exchange session that featured a panel of research specialists including Kevin Morris, Executive Director of National Turfgrass Evaluation Program; Dr. Mike Kenna of the United States Golf Association; Dr. Bruce Branham, University of Illinois; Dr. Tom Voigt, University of Illinois and Dr. Paul Koch, University of Wisconsin.

There was also a New Generation Leaders meeting and a Networking Mixer where attendees were able to casually exchange ideas, seek solutions and get acquainted with other turfgrass producers.

TPI's Annual Business Meeting saw the appointment of new officers and several new Board members. (see page 4).

The Convention also offered attendees some optional activities including The Lawn Institute Memorial Golf Tournament, which raised \$1,600 for ongoing turfgrass research programs and education. A Chicago Architecture Tour provided attendees with the opportunity to cruise the Chicago River and enjoy a walking tour that provided insight into the Windy City's contribution to skyscrapers and architecture.

For a more thorough recap see the September/October issue of TURF NEWS magazine.

** Doug Fender served as TPI's Executive Director for over 20 years. Naming this year's field day in his honor was TPI's way of acknowledging his contribution, commitment and dedication to the association and the green industry as a whole.*

2013 TPI Summer Convention & Field Days



2013 TPI Summer Convention & Field Days



TPI announces new officers and board members.

TPI's Annual Business Meeting saw the appointment of new officers and several new Board members. Bob Weerts of Blue Valley Sod Farm in Minnesota was appointed President, Ed Keeven Jr. of Emerald View Turf Farm in Missouri was elected Vice President and Will

Nugent of Bethel Farms in Florida was elected Secretary/Treasurer. New board appointees included Jimmy Fox of Evergreen Turf in Arizona and Eric Heuver of Eagle Lake Turf Farms in Alberta, Canada.



TPI's Board of Trustees from left to right: Richard Stunkard (retiring), Will Nugent, (secretary - treasurer) Dave Johnson, Bob Weerts, (president) Leon Dahle, Bobby Winstead (past president), Jimmy Fox (new trustee), Ian True, Duane Klundt, Eric Heuver (new trustee), Linda Bradley and Ed Keeven, Jr. (vice president). Not pictured, Johnny Trandem (retiring).

PHOTO: Lynn Grooms



Bob Weerts
President



Ed Keeven, Jr.
Vice President



Will Nugent
Secretary-Treasurer



Jimmy Fox
Board Trustee



Eric Heuver
Board Trustee

NEW video showcases Turfgrass Producers International "All That It Has to Offer!"

Video is available for viewing on TPI's Facebook page.

[CLICK HERE TO SEE THE VIDEO](#)

<http://www.turfgrassod.org/publisher/hot-topics/2013/9/19/all-that-tpi-has-to-offer>



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On behalf of the entire Cast of the Walt Disney World® Resort and Disney's Contemporary Resort, we look forward to ensuring your stay exceeds your every expectation. From the convenience of online hotel reservations and complimentary airport transfers to one-of-a-kind networking opportunities, the following information is designed to help you take advantage of everything our "World"

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



Touching Moment — The Doug Fender Memorial Field Day



Ben Copeland, Sr. of Patten Seed Co/Super Sod took a moment to express his personal thoughts about Doug Fender's contribution to TPI during his twenty years as TPI's executive director. Sharon Fender stood at Ben's side as he expressed a heartfelt tribute in Doug's memory.



The many people that Doug touched throughout his life gathered together around a framed photo tribute to him that was prepared and presented by Linda Bradley to Sharon Fender. Surrounding the images of Fender were hand written notes from his TPI family.

Sharon Fender expressed her sincere gratitude to everyone at TPI for their collective warmth. She was deeply touched by the sincere, thoughtful and moving tribute to her husband.

PHOTOS: Lynn Grooms



Heartland Turf Farms scores a winning goal for natural turfgrass

When two famed European soccer clubs competed in St. Louis they agreed on one thing – LET'S PLAY ON REAL TURF!

When two famed European soccer clubs Real Madrid and Inter Milan visited St. Louis in early August to play an exhibition match at the Edward Jones Dome in St. Louis nearly 55,000 fans saw a great match. It reportedly was the largest crowd to ever see a soccer match in St. Louis, or for that matter the entire state of Missouri.

What created added anticipation for the match was the fact that the organizers wanted the game to be played on a natural grass surface. The Edward Jones Dome, is the home of the NFL's St. Louis Rams and they play on an artificial surface. The challenge – cover the existing synthetic turf with a natural grass field for the game and have it removed immediately afterwards. The Motz Group in Cincinnati, Ohio known for delivering innovative solutions to the sports field industry received the call and began to put things in motion.

Approximately three weeks before the game they contacted **Heartland Turf Farms** in Columbia, Illinois and requested an opportunity to look at Heartland's field of Kentucky Bluegrass. According to Heartland's Tom Keeven, Sr., they liked what they saw; made a few recommendations on how to prepare the bluegrass for the Dome, and the project was off and running.

Heartland reports that the total square footage of turfgrass required for the project was close to 95,000 square feet. They started harvesting more than 600 Big Rolls of turfgrass, weighing approximately 2,500 pounds each on the Tuesday and Wednesday prior to the game. The turf was cut 1.5 inches thick to ensure added stability on the playing field. The Motz Group started their installation at the Dome on that Wednesday. By Saturday the field was ready for play. So what happened to all that turf that had to be removed following the game? Heartland's owner Tom Keeven, Sr. had the turf trucked back to the farm, where it was layed out and tilled back into the soil in preparation for seeding.

For interested soccer fans, Real Madrid beat Inter Milan 3-0.



KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS



BIG ROLL HARVESTING



INSTALLATION BEGINS



Tom Keeven and the staff at Heartland Turf Farms was up to the task of harvesting and shipping 600 Big Rolls of turfgrass sod to the Edward Jones Dome to meet the demands of game organizers.



Executive Director

Turfgrass Producers International is seeking an Executive Director who will provide leadership, growth and management expertise that will maximize the association’s operating efficiencies while providing cost-effective management that will serve to position the association at the forefront of the turfgrass industry.

CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION

Turfgrass Producers International

Turfgrass Producers International (TPI) is the only international trade association dedicated to promoting the benefits of turfgrass sod worldwide. The association has nearly 800 members in over 40 countries comprised of turfgrass sod and seed producers, equipment manufacturers and suppliers of products and/or services that support the turfgrass industry. TPI’s membership is also comprised of educators, researchers, students, and industry associates (individuals or organizations) who are dedicated to the turf and the green industry.

TPI serves its members by representing and advancing the turfgrass sod industry worldwide through the promotion of improved practices, providing access to research and timely information, building awareness of new innovations in the industry and the professional development of its members. TPI also serves as a resource center that shares information with the media, trade publications, sports field supervisors, golf course superintendents, landscapers, green industry professionals, educators, key decision-makers, etc.

Philadelphia will serve as the host city for the 2014 TPI Summer Convention & Field Days

