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Volume 7 Issue 2

SPECIAL EDITION - April 2014

TPI 2014 INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE & FIELD DAY IS A SUCCESS!

By Jim Novak

By all accounts TPI's International Conference & Field Day in Orlando received praise from turfgrass producers and exhibitors alike. Over 700 people representing 14 countries and more than 180 farms were on hand to participate. Countries represented included Australia, Canada, Colombia, England, Israel, Northern Ireland, Norway, Panama, Russian Federation, Scotland, South Africa, Turkey, Ukraine, and the United States.



Special thanks goes to Will Nugent, his wife Kim, their family (pictured above with TPI President Bob Weerts) and the entire staff at Bethel Farms in Sumterville, Florida for hosting an incredible Field Day.



Greg and Kat DeBuck of DeBuck's Sod Farm of New York enjoy the Field Day.



“THIS YEAR’S EDUCATION PROGRAM HAD SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE.”

The education sessions at TPI’s conference in Orlando may have offered the most extensive educational program ever presented.

Attendees had the opportunity to see more than fifteen presentations featuring over 25 different presenters. There were numerous “Show & Tell” presentations and breakout sessions that addressed subjects as varied as “Diversifying Your Business” to “Sustainable Turfgrass Production Using Biosolids”. Leading Turfgrass Extension Specialists and a panel comprised of Research Advisors representing The Lawn Institute also addressed a variety of timely and informative issues.

Other sessions addressed topics such as the “Cost of Doing Business”, “Customer Relations”, “Scouting for Winter-Kill of Bermudagrass”, “Soils, Fertilizers and Environmental Considerations” and more.

One member commented, “This year’s educational program had something for everyone.”



THE WORLD IS RUN BY THOSE THAT SHOW UP!



Dr. Hannah Carter
University of Florida
Association Professor & Director of
Wedgeport Leadership Institute



**“THE COST OF DOING BUSINESS”
PATTEN SEED/SUPER SOD**

BEN COPELAND JR., JIM ROQUEMORE AND BEN COPELAND SR.

NANCY FRIEDMAN
THE TELEPHONE DOCTOR



**7 TRAITS TO BEING SUCCESSFUL
&
21 GREAT CUSTOMER SERVICE TIPS**

**WHAT THE ... ARE KPI'S?
YOU PROBABLY HAVE THEM
AND JUST DON'T KNOW IT**



Steve Peterson
Vice President of Marketing &
Channel Development
CellarStone, Inc.

ASK THE EXPERTS
THE LAWN INSTITUTE RESEARCH ADVISORS
Moderator – Will Nugent



Brian Horgan, PhD
University of Minnesota
“Soils, Fertilizers and Environmental Considerations”



John Sorochan, PhD
University of Tennessee
Sports Turf Management: Focusing on Athlete Safety & Performance



Mike Richardson, PhD
University of Arkansas
“Turfgrasses for Water Conservation – Dream or Reality?”

ASK THE EXPERTS
TURFGRASS EXTENSION SPECIALISTS
Moderator – Linda Bradley



Dr. Bryan Unruh
University of Florida



Dr. Dennis Martin
Oklahoma State University



Dr. Ali Harivandi
University of California

**SUSTAINABLE TURFGRASS PRODUCTION
USING BIOSOLIDS**
Introduction – Claus Zander



Dr. Doug Soldat
University of Wisconsin-Madison



Dr. Erick Ervin
Virginia Tech



Paul Huggett
Paul's Turf & Tree Nursery



Scott Woodward
Woodward Turf Farms

Jim Kinservik
Jacklin Seed by Simplot

John Rector
Barenbrug USA

Ben Copeland, Jr.
Patten Seed/Super Sod

Tobey Wagner
Sod Solutions

**REGROWTH
FRIEND OR FOE**
Moderator – Duane Klundt




EDDIE KEEVEN
Emerald View Turf Farms
O'Fallon, Missouri

evergreen TURF *Arizona's Premier Sod Producer*



JIMMY FOX
PRESIDENT
EVERGREEN TURF
CHANDLER, ARIZONA



ERIC HEUVER
Eagle Lake Turf Farms
Strathmore, Alberta
CANADA

DIVERSIFICATION IN YOUR BUSINESS
Moderator – Warren Bell



Steve Schiedel
Green Horizons
CANADA



Chip Lain
Pine Island Turf Nursery
U.S.A.



Rob Davey
Evergreen Turf
AUSTRALIA



Johnny Trandem
Orloff Grass AS
NORWAY



Exhibits

Attendees had the opportunity to visit the exhibit area and meet with leading manufacturers and suppliers. There was a planned dinner with exhibits on one evening and exhibits with lunch on another day. Two ideal settings to ask questions, make inquiries, and get acquainted with company representatives while networking with fellow turfgrass producers.

The Lawn Institute Banquet & Fundraiser

The Lawn Institute Banquet & Fundraiser started off with a spectacular Polynesian show followed by a Hula Hoop Contest that helped to raise funds for turfgrass research and education. Audience members made a donation to The Lawn Institute by selecting the team they thought might win the competition. Special thanks goes to team leaders, Randy Graff, David Bradley, Nancy Aerni and Eric Heuver, and all the participants who got into the spirit of the event, had fun and raised over \$5,000.



Judy Adamski, Director of Retail and Professional Development for Sod Solutions was the all around Hula Hoop winner and received a framed limited edition of Disney art from Linda Bradley of Turf Mountain Sod.

TURFGRASS PRODUCERS FROM AUSTRALIA ATTEND TPI CONFERENCE & FIELD DAY IN RECORD NUMBERS



A Few Thoughtful Words From Down Under

Over 50 turfgrass producers from Australia, many of whom had never participated in a TPI event before attended the Conference and Field Day.

Michael Muscat of Green Life Farms in Windsor NSW, Australia — *“Thank you to the TPI staff and board members for the kind and warm welcome that was given to all of the Australians on our recent visit to Orlando. We truly appreciated your hospitality, a great conference and the beautiful slide show that made all of us feel very special and warmly welcomed.”*

Simon Aderman of Lawn Solutions Australia — *“Thanks for your efforts and TPI for the focus on acknowledging the Australians at your conference. The PowerPoint presentation at the Networking Lunch was fantastic. Thank you too for your hospitality and a great conference.”*

David Smith, New South Wales, Australia — *“I would like to thank Bethel Farms and the people involved in organizing the conference. I was fortunate to be one of the Aussies attending and enjoyed every minute. Well done.”*

Richard Stephens, Business & Industry Development Manager, Turf Australia — *“Thank you very much for your pictorial tribute to the Australians, it was great!”*



FINALLY A PHOSPHORUS YOU CAN ROOT FOR

Crystal Green® slow-release fertilizer technology feeds your turf plant-available phosphorus when the roots ask for it.



Crystal Green.

crystalgreen.com



TPI HONORS DR. ALI HARIVANDI TURFGRASS EDUCATOR AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Dr. Ali Harivandi, environmental horticulturist emeritus, University of California Cooperative Extension, was the honored recipient of the *Turfgrass Educator Award of Excellence* during TPI's 2014 International Education Conference & Field Day held in Orlando, FL.

In making the surprise announcement in front of an audience of over 400 attendees, Linda Moyer of Sod Solutions, Mount Pleasant, SC, and chair of the TPI Public Relations Working Group, stated that TPI's Board of Trustees had made the decision to honor Harivandi for his years of service in supporting the efforts of turfgrass producers worldwide.

Moyer said that Harivandi's "personal commitment, dedication and positive influence in helping to educate consumers, turfgrass producers, lawn care professionals, golf course superintendents and government decision-makers spans more than three decades."

Harivandi is only the second recipient to receive this distinguished honor from TPI. The last award was presented in 2008 to Dr. Laurie

Trenholm, Turfgrass Extension Specialist, University of Florida.

Upon being asked to step up to the stage to receive his award to a standing ovation, a somewhat stunned Harivandi expressed his gratitude and displayed the same professional grace, warmth and humility that is very much a part of his personality.

In a letter to the TPI Board he later wrote, "I have no doubt that the existence of this award will hearten and motivate others in my profession as well—it is wonderful to know that doing a good job at something one enjoys can earn special acknowledgement."

He went on to write, "I hope *Turfgrass Producers International* will continue to interact with and support the turfgrass academic community in our mutual pursuit of economically and environmentally sustainable turfgrass. I personally, am honored to be associated with your organization, and believe others in academia are equally impressed by your efforts.

Thank you again for this unexpected award—its receipt is a pleasure as well as an honor."



Ali Harivandi plans to remain active in promoting the benefits of natural turfgrass and will continue to be involved in supporting the industry.

PHOTO: Lynn Grooms

Look for updates on TPI's 2014 Summer Convention & Field Days on TPI's website, Facebook page and in future issues of **TURF NEWS**

SAVE THE DATE



Philadelphia

TPI SUMMER CONVENTION & FIELD DAYS
JULY 29 - AUGUST 1, 2014

TPI Field Day
July 31, 2014



Host Farm – Johnson Farms, Inc.
Deerfield, New Jersey





THE LAWN INSTITUTE "500 CLUB"

The Lawn Institute "500 Club" is a winning way to donate to The Lawn Institute and help fund research, education and change misconceptions and misinformation about turfgrass and lawns.

With donations of \$500 or more you will receive the following recognition:

- **The Lawn Institute 500 Club pin**
- **Recognition in our publications**
- **Recognition in The Lawn Institute booth**

For more information on becoming a 500 Club member see the following page.

Thanks to the more than 40 golfers who participated in The Lawn Institute's Memorial Golf Tournament at Disney's beautiful Magnolia Course in Orlando.



Taking a swing at raising funds for research and education during the The Lawn Institute Memorial Golf Tournament is **Dave Dymond** with support from his teammates **Randy Graff, Duane Klundt** and **Jimmy Fox**.



The winning foursome (from left to right) **Dale Leisure, Eric Heuver, Scott Sipes** and **Paul Vautour**.

2014 - 500 CLUB MEMBERS

Steve & Laurie Griffin - Saratoga Sod Farm, Inc.

Eric Heuver - Eagle Lake Professional Landscape Supply

Todd Valley Farms, Inc.

Angel Lopez - TAMANET USA

Leon Dahle - Dahle Sod Farm

Gerry Brouwer - Kesmac/Brouwer

Fred Pittillo - Turf Mountain Sod, Inc.

Richard Stunkard - Tulsa Sod & Sod Farms, Inc.

The Jasperson Family - Jasperson Sod Farms

The Johnson Family - Johnson Farms, Inc.

Ben Copeland, Sr. - Patten Seed/Super Sod

Ed Keeven, Jr. - Emerald View Turf Farm

MORE PHOTOS

Want to see more photos of TPI's 2014 International Education Conference & Field Day?

Visit TPI's Facebook Page at

<https://www.facebook.com/TurfgrassProducersInternational>

Or visit TPI's SmugMug page at

<http://www.tpiphotos.smugmug.com/>



Find us on
Facebook



SmugMug

THE LAWN INSTITUTE "500 CLUB" HELP SUPPORT RESEARCH & EDUCATION



500 CLUB

Purpose: To raise funds for education and research for the turfgrass industry.

To Qualify: Reach a monetary donation total of \$500 or more to The Lawn Institute during the current calendar year.

Recognition: The Lawn Institute "500 Club" pin, signage in The Lawn Institute booth and recognition in our publications.

Ways to reach your "500 Club" goal!

We put the "Fun" in Fundraiser. You can make donations at TPI's Summer Convention or International Education Conference.

How it works:

Option A: Make a single donation of \$500 or more to The Lawn Institute

Option B: Participate in one or more of our qualified events and your donations will add up!

- Obtain your 500 Club Card at the registration desk or at any qualifying Lawn Institute fundraising event.
- When you donate to The Lawn Institute the total will be entered onto your card.
- At each qualifying event, the dollars you donate will be added to your 500 Club Card.
- When you have reached the cumulative \$500 donation, turn in your card at The Lawn Institute booth or registration desk at the convention or conference to receive your recognition gift.
- Haven't reached your cumulative \$500 donation? We will track your contributions for you. Turn your 500 Club Card in at the registration desk or The Lawn Institute booth during the convention or conference. If you make any additional donations within the current calendar year and reach \$500 you will join the 500 Club for that year.
- Receipts will be emailed to you for your donation(s).
- NEW THIS YEAR: Donate to The Lawn Institute when you pay your 2014-2015 membership dues. One check — it's that easy!

As featured in the April 2014 LSI E-Newsletter



Posted on April 01, 2014

The Positive Impact of Turfgrass - Overlooked and Misunderstood

When it comes to turfgrass phosphorus bans being proposed by many legislatures, scientific research often succumbs to peer pressure or just plain ignorance.

By Jim Novak

Are concerns regarding applied nitrogen and phosphorus to turfgrass lawns and golf courses valid? Recent studies suggest such accusations may be pointing in the wrong direction. The results of several research studies* regarding nitrogen and phosphorus usage on lawns and golf courses provide some interesting conclusions, including the following:



NITROGEN

Nitrogen losses from surface runoff in a well-established turf were insignificant . . . even with a 10% slope and frequent intense rainfall⁽¹⁾. Thirty percent of applied nitrogen was leached from a mixed-species mulched ornamental planting. In contrast, very little applied nitrogen (less than 2%) was leached from a mature St. Augustine turfgrass sod⁽¹⁾.

PHOSPHOROUS

Nutrient losses via surface runoff were similar between a non-fertilized prairie and fertilized turf - fertilizer was either an insignificant source of phosphorous in runoff or turf has less inherent phosphorous losses from natural sources than prairie⁽³⁾. Greater phosphorous leaching occurred from a mixed-species landscape than from established turf⁽²⁾.

WATER QUALITY

Water in a stream was cleaner when it left a golf course in both North Carolina and Indiana than when it entered the property⁽⁴⁾.

BUFFERING

A University of Florida study indicates the importance of management practices rather than plant species for reducing nitrogen leaching from residential land use⁽¹⁾.

In a study conducted by Dr. Thomas L. Watschke, Pennsylvania State University, titled "The Environmental Benefits of Turfgrass and Their Impact on the Greenhouse Effect", the following comments were stated:

"A thick, healthy turfgrass can help reduce runoff losses from the vegetated portion of a developed watershed to almost nothing."

"Turfgrasses also are frequently used in storm water retention areas to slow the rate of flow of runoff to allow soil infiltration."

"Turfgrass should be included in any legislative solution to the greenhouse effect. It is important to recognize and repeatedly emphasize that the establishment of turfgrass areas can be accomplished instantly through the use of [turfgrass] sod. Because of that fact, the maximum environmental benefits of turfgrasses can be realized without delay."

Cont'd on next page

The Positive Impact of Turfgrass - Overlooked and Misunderstood — Cont'd

In "Evaluation of Natural and Man-Made Erosion Control Materials," a study conducted by E. C. Krenisky; M.J. Carroll; R. H. Hill; and J. M. Krouse, Department of Natural Resource Sciences and Landscape Architecture, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland and published in Crop Science Society of America, *Crop Science*, Vol. 38, No. 4, July- August, 1998, to examine and quantify the effectiveness of erosion control materials and measure runoff on two natural and four man-made materials the following was reported:

- "Turfgrass sod was the only material that delayed the start of runoff and greatly decreased the total runoff volume."
- "Turfgrass sod consistently had the lowest runoff rates."
- "Sod-covered areas absorb rainfall droplet energy and greatly reduce the velocity of runoff flow at the soil surface, thus little soil loss occurs."
- "Turfgrass sod was found to offer superior performance when compared to straw (the other natural material) in all three erosion control categories."

Dr. James B. Beard, Professor Emeritus, Texas A & M University, the world's leading authority on turfgrasses and turfgrass science, stated the following in his presentation before the Council of Agricultural Sciences and Technology in January 2006 titled, "*Integrated Multiple Factor Consideration in Low-Precipitation Landscape Approaches*": "Essentially, the turfgrass biomass functions like a sponge that traps water and increases ground water recharge. Grass areas can be designed with surface contours to reduce storm-water runoff, thereby minimizing the need for costly mechanical water-control structures in urban areas."

In Dr. Beard's 1994 report, "*The Role of Turfgrasses in Environmental Protection and Their Benefits to Humans*", he wrote: "One of the key mechanisms by which turfgrasses preserve water is their superior capability to trap and hold runoff, resulting in more water infiltrating and filtering through the soil-turfgrass ecosystem."

In the November 15, 2006 issue of "Turfgrass and Environmental Research Online", the USGA offered an article entitled "*Impact of Prairie and Turf Buffer Strips on Golf Course Fairway Runoff and Leachate*" authored by Dr. John Stier (currently Assistant Dean for the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, University of Tennessee) and Dr. Wayne Kussow, University of Wisconsin - Madison, in which they concluded: "Our study is important because it shows that in real-world

situations, at least where slope is minimal, runoff from golf course fairways was less than 5% of the rainfall over a two-year period of abundant rainfall. Phosphorus and nitrogen contamination of runoff and leachate water from golf course fairways was similar to natural background levels reported for non-fertilized native prairies and was not affected by buffer strip type or size."

The environmental benefits of turfgrass are many, but misinformation and unsubstantiated claims often create a distorted impression of the environmental benefits turfgrass has to offer.

In an article written by Dr. Wayne Kussow featured in *Environment & Climate News* - March 2009 published by The Heartland Institute he wrote: "One impetus for banning the fertilizer phosphorus on turfgrass has been surveys showing many home lawns have excessive levels of soil-test phosphorus with respect to actual turfgrass requirements.

"When soil-test levels of phosphorus exceed what the grass actually requires, there is no additional up-take of phosphorus. Phosphorous bans assume fertilization is responsible for high soil-test levels. However, the science does not support this seemingly logical assumption." Kussow also commented, "Turfgrass researchers know the ratios in which nutrients are taken up by grasses are remarkably constant. For the cool-season grasses grown in northern climates, the ratio in which nitrogen (N) and phosphorus (P) are taken up is close to 9:1. Leaving the clippings on lawns (now a widespread practice) results in recycling of phosphorus."

He went on to add, "Wisconsin research has shown when clippings are left on lawns, it takes only 0.1 pound of fertilizer P per pound of N to replace what has been removed from the soil. This equates to a ratio of 10:1. Any survey of fertilizers commonly sold for lawn application quickly reveals a similar ratio of 10:1. This leads to the inescapable conclusion that these fertilizers are supplying only the quantity of phosphorous that is being removed by the grass."

* References (1) Erickson et al., *Crop Science*, 2005 and 2008 (2) Erickson et al. , *Crop Science*, 2005 (3) Steinke et al., *Crop Science*, 2007 (4) Reicher , 2000; Ruffy et al. , 2007



CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS ON INNOVATIONS

Turfgrass Producers International is gathering information about innovative technologies that members may have developed or adopted to use in their business operation to increase productivity, better manage their operating costs and/or improve overall operating efficiencies.

If you are developing, using and/or marketing software, hardware, chemicals, or another product that is available for sale, lease and use on a sod farm, we would like to feature it during the educational program at TPI's Summer Convention in Philadelphia.

You can submit your request to participate in numerous ways but all requests must be received by 5:00 pm CDT on Monday, May 26, 2014. Please include "Call for Innovations" in the subject field.

CALL FOR INNOVATIONS

Fax (+1-847-649-5678)

Email at (info@TurfGrassSod.org)

Submit online at <http://www.turfgrassod.org/>

If the technology you propose to address is selected as part of a panel presentation at the Summer Convention, you will be notified by Thursday, June 19.

Please print or type

Contact name: (person submitting this outline) _____

Name of speaker: _____
 (If different from contact — must attend the Summer Convention in Philadelphia, July 29-August 1, 2014)

Company: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Type of product (check one): software computer hardware machine/device other
 (If other please explain):

Name of product: _____

What the product does/why is this technology useful to sod farmers: (150 words or fewer – you may attach a second page)

The speaker indicated above agrees to attend the Convention and pay all necessary travel, hotel and registration expenses. As part of the education program, the product/technology (unless it is unique to the market) may be featured with competitive products/technologies. All speakers will be required to disclose their affiliations with the companies that produce and/or market featured items to the audience.



APRIL IS NATIONAL LAWN CARE MONTH

TURFGRASS PRODUCERS INTERNATIONAL OBSERVES THE IMPORTANCE OF LAWNS AND ALL THE ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS THAT NATURAL TURFGRASS HAS TO OFFER DURING NATIONAL LAWN CARE MONTH AND THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

Cools the Air • Produces Oxygen • Filters Air & Reduces Pollution
 Captures & Suppresses Dust • Controls Soil Erosion • Reduces Storm Water Runoff • Recharges & Filters Groundwater Supply
 Restores Soil Quality • Retains & Sequesters Carbon • Reduces Pest & Allergy Problems • Improves Physical & Mental Health
 Relieves Stress • Diminishes Noise • Reduces Glare • Dissipates Heat • Increases Property Value • Reduces Home Heating Costs
 Deters Crime • Serves as a Fire Barrier • Preserves Natural Wildlife Habitat • Enhances Community Pride • Promotes Outdoor Activity & Exercise



Jacob and Preston Pooler, sons of Jason and Tina Pooler of Tri-Turf Sod Farms in Paris, Tennessee.

PHOTO BY: Jim Novak

APRIL is... National Lawn Care Month

The [Professional Landcare Network \(PLANET\)](#) has established April as National Lawn Care Month to help bring awareness to the benefits of a healthy lawn and the importance of consistent care. It is a great time to think about proper lawn maintenance techniques and management to provide your lawn with the best care and results. Some items that are important to consider include; regularly scheduled fertilizer, integrated pest management, pre and post emergents for weeds, and correcting pH levels.

The [Professional Landcare Network](#) has made available resources for landscape professionals to promote the celebration to clients and educate them on the benefits of a healthy lawn. It created a [National Lawn Care Month web page](#), which includes facts, resources, an infographic, photos and a logo for use on social media or in client communication materials.

PLANET is the national trade association representing more than 100,000 landscape industry professionals, who create and maintain healthy, green living spaces for communities across America. PLANET members are committed to the highest standards in industry education, best practices, and business professionalism.

April is... National Lawn Care Month

Upkeep of Yards Important to Americans

81% Percentage of Americans who say that the upkeep of their yard is important to the overall look of their home.*	88% Percentage of Americans that report having a yard or landscape the most yards are found in the South-91% of Southerners report having a yard.*
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*According to a survey conducted by PLANET and Harris Interactive

Benefits of Lawns

- A 50' by 50' lawn produces enough oxygen for a family of four.
- Areas with asphalt or "heat islands" can be up to 22 degrees hotter than surrounding areas with grass.
- Turfgrass holds the soil better than any other plant because of its root system. A single grass plant can have more than 300 miles of roots.

12 million tons Amount of dust that lawns trap annually.	26% use yards to relax 1 in 4 people said relaxing was their favorite activity.*	10,000 Number of grass species worldwide.
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PLANET
Professional Landcare Network
www.LoveYourLandscape.com



LAST MONTH TPI'S FACEBOOK PAGE HAD OVER 3,000 VISITORS . . . WERE YOU ONE OF THEM?



When TPI started its Facebook page back in May of 2012, we were hopeful that we might reach between 100 –150 LIKES (followers). We initially thought if we were to ever reach 500 LIKES, which is considered a Facebook milestone, it would be an impressive achievement.

As of this writing TPI's Facebook page has 475 LIKES.

Following TPI's 2014 International Education Conference & Field Day, TPI's Facebook page recorded over 3,000 visitors. Many members have posted information that appears on the TPI Facebook page on their own business or personal Facebook pages and shared information with their friends, family, customers and business associates.

If you want insight into timely TPI-related news, turf industry stories, information about fellow members or access to links, YouTube videos or other worthwhile information you'll find all of that and a lot more on TPI's Facebook page. For example, click on PHOTOS and you'll have access to hundreds of photos from TPI conferences, conventions and Field Days.

If you haven't visited TPI's Facebook page you're in for a pleasant surprise. Our goal is to 500 LIKES by August of 2014 and you can help TPI achieve that goal.

LIKE US on Facebook so you can receive timely updates whenever we post something of interest. You'll be glad you did.

<http://sports.yahoo.com/blogs/highschool-prep-rally/won-t-believe-one-hour-rain-did-pittsburgh-121148615.html>



You won't believe what one hour of rain did to a Pittsburgh turf field

School districts install turf fields to try and protect surfaces from the natural elements. Evidently that logic sometimes backfires. Continue reading →

<http://www.turfmagazine.com/article.aspx?articleid=9601> - J.Novak article "Install Sod Like the Pro That You Are" featured in Turf Magazine.



Turf Magazine
www.turfmagazine.com

For landscapers who install turfgrass sod on a regular basis it might seem relatively easy, but for the inexperienced, what they don't know can have consequences down the road. To avoid the unexpected and make your job easier, a few easy-to-follow...

Orlando Exhibits (92 photos)

Attendees had two opportunities to visit the exhibit area and meet with leading manufacturers and suppliers. There was a planned dinner with exhibits on one evening and exhibits with lunch on another day. Two ideal settings to ask questions, make inquiries, and get acquainted with company representatives while networking with fellow turfgrass producers. — at Disney's Contemporary Resort.



To visit the TPI Facebook page click the graphics to the right. You don't have to be a Facebook subscriber to visit the page. If you are already a Facebook subscriber, be sure to click **LIKE** on our Facebook page.

Heartland Turf Farms in Columbia, Illinois scored a goal for natural grass. <http://www.golfdom.com/natural-grass-installed-over-artificial-turf-for-european-soccer-match/>



Natural grass installed over artificial turf for European soccer match
www.golfdom.com

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...

TPI Field Day - Series 1 (48 photos)

By all accounts the TPI Field Day at Bethel Farms exceeded expectations. Thanks goes to Will and Kim Nugent, their family and staff, the exhibitors and turfgrass producers from across the globe that attended. Thanks to everyone for what was an engaging and memorable event!



TPI Field Day - Series 2 (41 photos)

The 2014 TPI International Education Conference & Field Day was attended by nearly 600 turfgrass producers and industry suppliers. Approximately 140 turf farms were represented.






Do You Have A “Handle” On It?

TPI is joining Twitter! If you are unfamiliar with Twitter, it is a social media application where people, organizations and the media can share news, feedback, thoughts and ideas using no more than 140. While Twitter isn't an ideal forum for all TPI-related information, it will be a useful tool to communicate brief information to our members and other industry associates quickly.

But before we start “tweeting” (that is the term for communications initiated through Twitter), we need a name to use with our account. That's where our members come in:

Because TPI is your organization and we represent you, we are inviting you to submit potential Twitter handles*.

TPI is making this a friendly contest for our members. The Public Relations Working Group will review all submissions to ensure they aren't currently being used on Twitter and will select five options. Those five options will be posted on the TPI website and members will be invited to vote on their favorite. The member who submits the winning option will win a US \$25.00 Amazon gift card and the glory of seeing the name they suggested on every TPI tweet! Everybody who submits an entry will receive a Money Savings Card from The Lawn Institute – Value US \$10.00.

We want you to have fun thinking of a great Twitter handle for TPI. So, we are keeping the contest to just a few rules:

- All suggestions must be submitted no later than 5:00 pm Central time on Monday, May 19, 2014
- If multiple people submit identical handles, TPI will recognize the first entry received at the headquarters office
- There is no limit to the number of suggestions each member can make (be creative and submit multiple ideas)
- The handle must contain fewer than 15 characters (this is a Twitter rule, not a TPI rule)
- No lewd or offensive names will be considered
- The contest is only open to members of TPI and their families – submit your idea today!

Send submissions to info@TurfGrassSod.org by 5:00 pm Central time on May 19, 2014 with “Twitter Handle” in the subject line. Voting on the five options will open on Tuesday, June 3 and will close on Monday, June 23. The winning TPI Twitter handle will be announced on Tuesday, July 1.

What will the first TPI tweet be? Follow TPI on Twitter before the Summer Convention and find out!

For additional information about using Twitter, TPI recommends the following websites:

www.Twitter.com

<https://business.twitter.com/glossary>

<http://personalweb.about.com/od/twitterterms/a/Twitter-Language.htm>

* A *Twitter handle* is the name associated with the Twitter account.

UPDATE: TURF RESTORATION CONTINUES AT THE NATIONAL MALL

The Trust for the National Mall reports that Phase I of turf restoration was completed in 2012 with the restoration of the turf panels from 3rd to 7th Streets and Phase II will continue this year and continue over the next few years. It has also been reported that John Deere has provided more than \$400,000 in turf management equipment to support this effort.

- See more at <http://nationalmall.org/building/restore-improve/progress/active-projects/turf-restoration-phase-ii>

Bringing the GREEN back to the National Mall



NEWS MAKERS —

TPI Members **Fred Pittillo** and **David Bradley** of Turf Mountain Sod featured on University of North Carolina “In The Garden” broadcast.

By Jim Novak

A recent episode of UNC-TV's "In The Garden" highlighted sod and provided an interesting interview with TPI members **Fred Pittillo** and **David Bradley** of Turf Mountain Sod, Hendersonville, North Carolina.

Viewers were provided with insight into Turf Mountain’s sod farming operation and discovered that, when it comes to lawns in North Carolina, the type of grass you select primarily depends on where you live... and of course, how much time you want to spend tending it.



In this episode, host Bryce Lane (pictured above), visited Turf Mountain Sod and learned about the expertise of North Carolina sod producers and then tackled the task of laying sod on his own.

Check out the link highlighted below to see the episode or visit TPI’s Facebook page.

<http://video.unctv.org/video/2365099146/>



Screen captures from “In The Garden” as featured on UNC-TV.



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